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WORLD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

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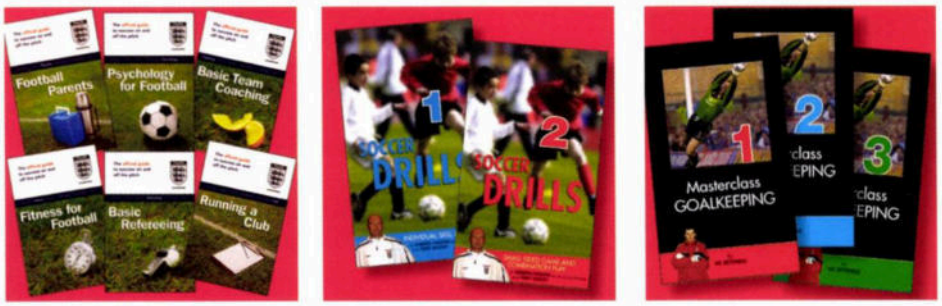

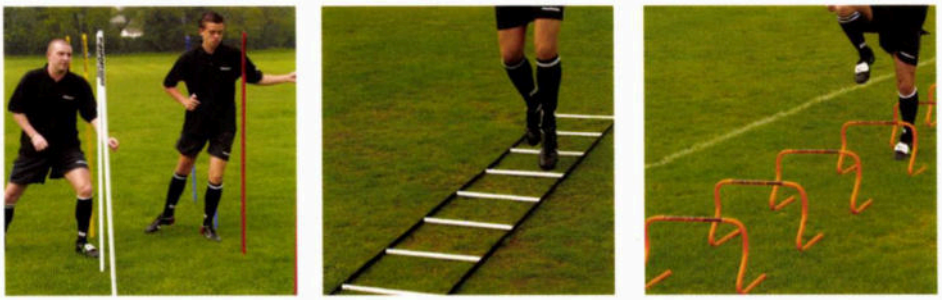

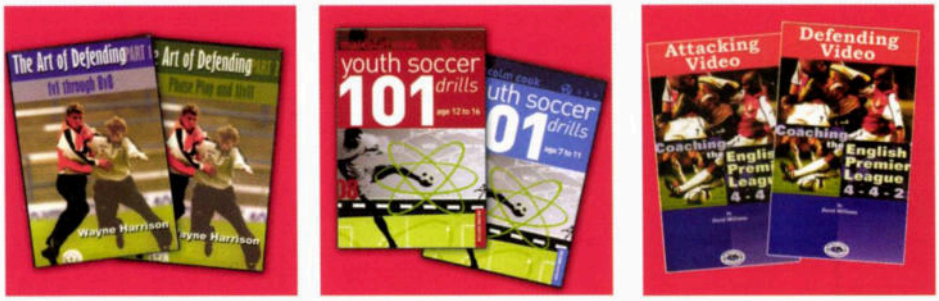

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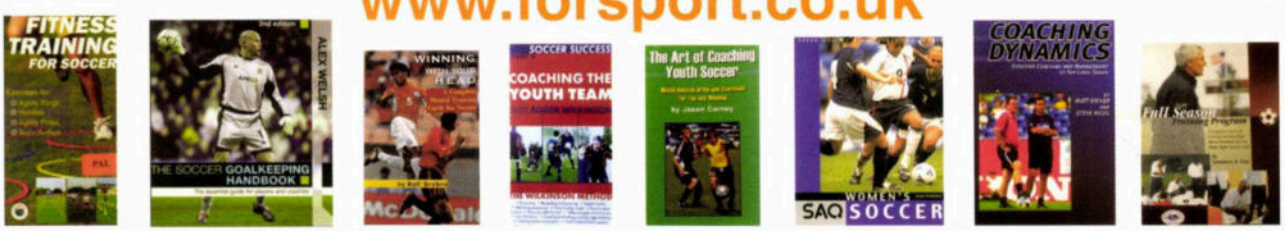

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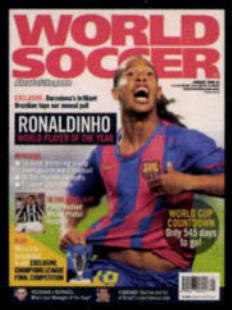

JANUARY 2005 VOL 45 NO 4
Cover: Ronaldinho (Barcelona)

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(13 issues, prices include postage) UK: £37.70
Europe/Eire (inc. VAT): 78.00 euros (airmail)
USA: $89.65 (airmail)
Rest of world: £63.30 (airmail)

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JANUARY 2005

WORLD SOCCER comment

IT'S that time of the year when we hand out the gongs. Time to reflect on some outstanding individual performances – congratulations, in particular, to Ronaldinho, our 2004 World Player of the Year – and some memorable moments from the past 12 months.

While we are lauding the likes of Ronaldinho, Henry and Shevchenko, as well as the collective achievements of Greece and Porto, it's easy to forget about the darker side of the game. But sometimes some subjects, however unpleasant, cannot be ignored. That's been the case with two issues – racism and drugs – over the past month. Both are topics about which football is normally struck by collective amnesia.

The English media were quick to condemn the events at the Spain-England friendly in Madrid, where the Bernabeu crowd, no doubt encouraged by the lack of opposition they have faced in the past, felt confident enough to racially abuse England's black players. But few people bothered to turn the issue around and question why English football has so few black managers, so few black faces at the FA and so few Asian professional players.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter was equally quick to condemn the racists, saying that England's players would have been within their rights to walk off the pitch in protest. Blatter got what he wanted – a quick headline that portrayed him as tough on racism. But unless FIFA serves up a punishment that matches the president's reaction – points docked from Spain's World Cup qualifying campaign – then Blatter will have paid nothing but lip service to the problem.

Similarly with drugs, where the Juventus trial in Turin (see page 18) brought the issue of performance-enhancing substances in football sharply into perspective. FIFA still sticks to the line that footballers cannot benefit from such stimulants as much as 'individual' sports such as track and field, cycling and swimming. Yet the direct references to the use of the banned blood-booster EPO in the Turin judgement, as well as Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger's recent comments about the high red blood cell counts of players joining his club, suggest that FIFA needs to finally tackle the problem, rather than continue to deny its existence.

Juventus won the European Cup during the time that club doctor Ricardo Agricola has been deemed to have been administering banned substances, including EPO, to players. That in itself should be enough to force action on the issue. Drugs, like racism, will not go quietly. It's going to take more than T-shirts with catchy slogans to clean up the game.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

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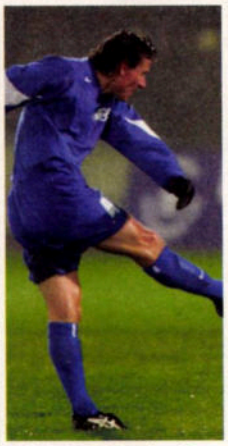

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DC UNITED OUTDO ADU

UNITED STATES: DC United overcame the hype surrounding teenager Freddy Adu to win the 2004 MLS Cup.
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FLAMENGO IN FREEFALL

BRAZIL: The country's most popular club are in danger of paying the price for years of spectacular mismanagement.
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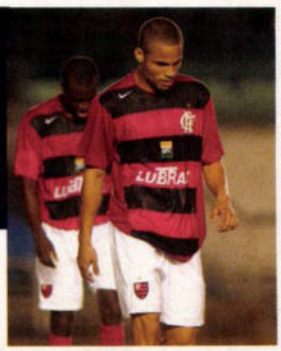


COVER STORY
2004 WORLD SOCCER AWARDS
Ronaldinho, Jose Mourinho and Greece triumph in our annual poll for World Player, Manager and Team of the Year. **Page 6**

TROUSSIER ARRIVES AT MARSEILLE
FRANCE: Former Japan manager Philippe Troussier has been installed at Marseille after the double departure of coach Jose Anigo and president Christophe Bouchet. **Page 47**

DRUGS JOLT FOR JUVE
ITALY: Juventus, sweeping all before them in Serie A and the Champions League, found themselves caught up in controversy following the verdict of the long-running drugs trial. **Page 18**

ANGHEL FLIES OFF
ROMANIA: Anghel Iordanescu has quit as national coach to pursue a career in politics. **Page 54**

CHINA EXIT DESPITE 7-0 WIN
CHINA: The country's football, already rocked by match-fixing scandals and corruption allegations at home, must now deal with the national team's painful elimination from the World Cup qualifying campaign. **Page 61**

END OF THE LINE?
SPAIN: Barcelona's 3-0 defeat of Real Madrid at Camp Nou could turn out to be a hugely significant event. **Page 26**

ESPERANCE FAIL AGAIN
TUNISIA: The Champions League jinx on perennial favourites Esperance continued as they again failed in their bid to carry off the prize. This time they went out in the semi-finals, on penalties to defending champions Enyimba of Nigeria. **Page 59**

AL ITTIHAD THE COMEBACK KINGS
SAUDI ARABIA: Al Ittihad staged a sensational fightback to claim the Asian Champions League title. Their 5-0 win over Songnam Ilhwa in the second leg of the Final gave them a remarkable 6-3 aggregate victory. **Page 60**

Ronaldinho rules

Brilliant Brazilian tops our annual poll

Ronaldinho
World Player of the Year

Mourinho
World Manager of the Year

Greece
World Team of the Year

RONALDINHO is your choice as 2004 World Player of the Year. Barcelona's brilliant Brazilian gained almost 29 per cent of the votes in our 23rd annual poll, ahead of Arsenal striker Thierry Henry, Andrii Shevchenko of Milan and Portugal's Brazil-born midfielder Deco.

The award is recognition of Ronaldinho's pivotal role in the revitalisation of Barcelona over the past 12 months. His impact since joining the club from Paris Saint-Germain in July 2003 has been immense and deserves to be compared to that of his compatriot Ronaldo at the same club in 1996. After Barca's poor start to last season, Ronaldinho inspired them to qualify for the Champions League; this season they have led from the front in the Spanish League, while their entertaining style of football has been carried over to the Champions League. Ronaldinho has contributed a series of crucial goals, including a late winner against Milan.

The 24-year-old joins an illustrious group of players who have won *World Soccer's* Player of the Year award, including his fellow Brazilians Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Zico, and former greats Michel Platini, Diego Maradona and Marco Van Basten.

Henry, an early favourite for this year's award after playing a key role in Arsenal's record 49-game unbeaten run, finished second with more than 22 per cent of the votes. Shevchenko, top scorer in Serie A last season, was third, with Deco, star of FC Porto's Champions League victory and who has since joined Ronaldinho at Barcelona, fourth.

Last year's winner, Juventus and Czech Republic midfielder Pavel Nedved, was fifth this time ahead of English teenage starlet Wayne Rooney and Inter's Brazilian sensation Adriano.

Jose Mourinho was the clear winner of the Manager of the Year award, recognition of his success in guiding unfancied Porto to their Champions League Final victory over Monaco, just a year on from their UEFA Cup triumph. Otto Rehhagel, the German who masterminded Greece's surprise success at Euro 2004, finished second, ahead of Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger.

English champions Arsenal ran Greece very close for the Team of the Year award, but the Greeks, 100-1 outsiders at the beginning of Euro 2004, were the marginal winners after their amazing success in Portugal. Despite the heavy vote for Mourinho in the manager category, Porto could finish only third.

Surprisingly, Argentina's Olympic gold medal-winning side and Brazil, Copa America champions, were seventh and ninth respectively.

2004 WORLD SOCCER AWARDS

WORLD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

		% of votes
1	Ronaldinho (Barcelona & Brazil)	28.6
2	Thierry Henry (Arsenal & France)	22.2
3	Andrii Shevchenko (Milan & Ukraine)	12.6
4	Deco (FC Porto/Barcelona & Portugal)	10.2
5	Pavel Nedved (Juventus & Czech Republic)	3.5
6	Wayne Rooney (Everton/Man Utd & England)	2.6
7	Adriano (Internazionale & Brazil)	2.2
8	Frank Lampard (Chelsea & England)	2.0
9	Theo Zagorakis (AEK Athens/Bologna & Greece)	1.7
10	Milan Baros (Liverpool & Czech Republic)	1.5
others		12.9

PREVIOUS WINNERS		% of votes
1982	Paolo Rossi (Juventus & Italy)	23
1983	Zico (Udinese & Brazil)	28
1984	Michel Platini (Juventus & France)	54
1985	Michel Platini (Juventus & France)	21
1986	Diego Maradona (Napoli & Argentina)	36
1987	Ruud Gullit (Milan & Holland)	39
1988	Marco Van Basten (Milan & Holland)	43
1989	Ruud Gullit (Milan & Holland)	24
1990	Lothar Matthaus (Inter & West Germany)	22
1991	Jean-Pierre Papin (Marseille & France)	25
1992	Marco Van Basten (Milan & Holland)	19
1993	Roberto Baggio (Juventus & Italy)	14
1994	Paolo Maldini (Milan & Italy)	27
1995	Gianluca Vialli (Juventus & Italy)	18
1996	Ronaldo (Barcelona & Brazil)	17
1997	Ronaldo (Barcelona/Internazionale & Brazil)	27
1998	Zinedine Zidane (Juventus & France)	23
1999	Rivaldo (Barcelona & Brazil)	42
2000	Luis Figo (Barcelona/Real Madrid & Portugal)	26
2001	Michael Owen (Liverpool & England)	31
2002	Ronaldo (Inter/Real Madrid & Brazil)	26
2003	Pavel Nedved (Juventus & Czech Republic)	36

WORLD MANAGER OF THE YEAR

	% of votes
Jose Mourinho (FC Porto/Chelsea)	35.5
Otto Rehhagel (Greece)	26.4
Arsene Wenger (Arsenal)	10.0
Frank Rijkaard (Barcelona)	3.5
Rafael Benitez (Valencia/Liverpool)	3.3
Karel Bruckner (Czech Republic)	1.7
Didier Deschamps (Monaco)	1.3
Carlo Ancelotti (Milan)	1.1
Fabio Capello (Roma/Juventus)	0.8
David Moyes (Everton)	0.4
others	16.0

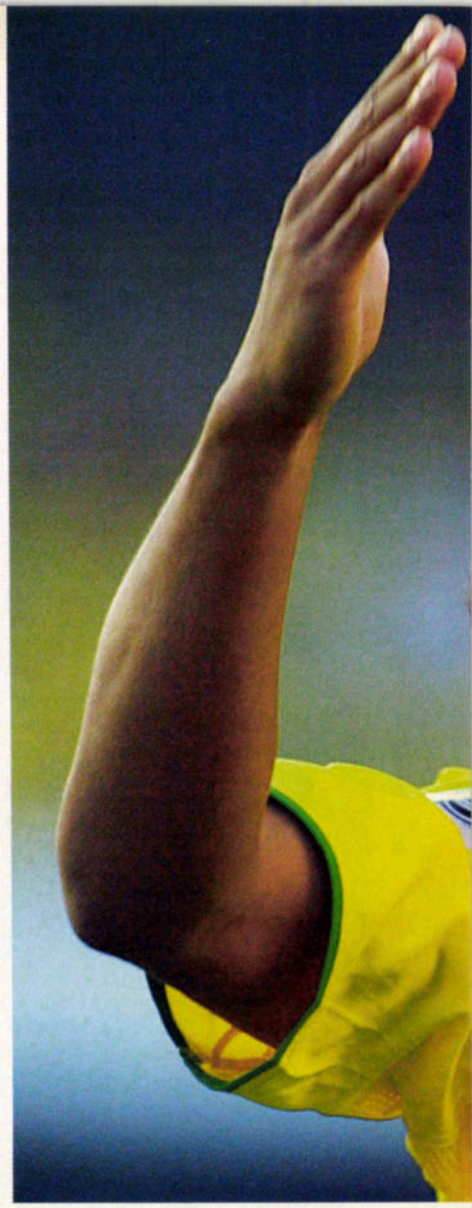
	% of votes
Enzo Bearzot (Italy)	49
Sepp Piontek (Denmark)	29
Michel Hidalgo (France)	30
Terry Venables (Barcelona)	30
Guy Thys (Belgium)	15
Johan Cruyff (Ajax)	25
Rinus Michels (Holland/Leverkusen)	48
Arrigo Sacchi (Milan)	42
Franz Beckenbauer (West Germany)	53
Michel Platini (France)	42
Richard Moller Nielsen (Denmark)	28
Alex Ferguson (Manchester United)	21
Carlos Alberto Parreira (Brazil)	17
Louis Van Gaal (Ajax)	42
Berti Vogts (Germany)	28
Ottmar Hitzfeld (Borussia Dortmund)	17
Arsene Wenger (Arsenal)	28
Alex Ferguson (Manchester United)	60
Dino Zoff (Italy)	18
Gerard Houllier (Liverpool)	28
Guus Hiddink (South Korea)	28
Carlo Ancelotti (Milan)	20

WORLD TEAM OF THE YEAR

	% of votes
Greece	25.1
Arsenal	24.8
FC Porto	16.0
Barcelona	4.0
Milan	3.1
Czech Republic	2.6
Argentina Olympic XI	2.2
Valencia	2.0
Brazil	1.7
Monaco	1.1
others	17.4

	% of votes
Brazil	30
Hamburg	29
France	45
Everton	42
Argentina	15
FC Porto	38
Holland	43
Milan	51
West Germany	28
France	20
Denmark	37
Parma	24
Milan	33
Ajax	50
Nigeria	31
Borussia Dortmund	20
France	35
Manchester United	61
France	33
Liverpool	26
Brazil	24
Milan	23

The priceless prince of Barcelona



Ronaldinho is bringing back the good times to Camp Nou, says Keir Radnedge

SO MUCH FOR the *galacticos* of Real Madrid. Barcelona have had the last laugh in Spanish football's solar system, courtesy of Ronaldinho.

President Joan Laporta must wake up in the middle of the night sweating with fright at the thought that if he had kept to his pre-election promise in the summer of 2003 he would have wound up with David Beckham, and Ronaldinho would probably be weaving his magic in Madrid.

The Brazilian is joining an elite clutch of fellow countrymen who have carried off the game's major individual awards down the years. *World Soccer* has lauded Zico, Ronaldo and Rivaldo; the European Footballer of the Year award has lighted on Rivaldo and Ronaldo since *France Football* changed the rules in 1995; the South Americans have worshipped Pele, Tostao, Zico, Socrates, Bebeto, Rai, Cafu and Romario; and FIFA's World Player prize has similarly rewarded the talents of Romario, Ronaldo and Rivaldo.

In addition, Ronaldinho boasts the ultimate status of World Cup-winner after his outstanding campaign in South Korea and Japan in 2002.

Now Laporta's senior director, Sandro Rosell, has piled on the superlatives by saying: "Ronaldinho has achieved in a remarkably short time what very few players in the world could have done. Our club was on its knees administratively, technically and socially when he arrived. Now we can all take pride once more in Barcelona – on and off the pitch."

Rosell was the key negotiator in bringing Ronaldinho into mainstream European club football from the confused shadows of Paris Saint-Germain. He had been Nike's liaison with the Brazilian federation and national team and thus gained privileged access to its stars. Persuading Ronaldinho cost nothing; signing him cost £18million, which now looks a bargain. Indeed, Rosell claims he has since rejected a £60m bid from Chelsea. "Ronaldinho is priceless," he says.

Born on March 21, 1980, Ronaldo de Assis Moreira (also known as Ronaldinho Gaucho) made his senior, winning debut for Gremio of Porto Alegre, not in the Brazilian championship or the Rio Grande do Sul state League but, appropriately and prophetically, on the international stage in the Libertadores Cup. His hero then was his elder brother, Roberto, who is now his personal manager. Ronaldinho says: "I had always wanted to be a professional like him. We lived for football when I was a kid. My mother wanted me to pay more attention to school but it wasn't possible. I even 'dribbled' a football between my feet when we sat down to meals."

He first met Luiz Felipe Scolari at Gremio, recalling: "Scolari coached the first team while I was in the juniors. But when training was over with the seniors he would often come to watch us and give us some tips."

Struggle in Paris

A year after making his Gremio debut Ronaldinho helped Brazil win the 1999 Copa America and inspired his club's state title win. His reputation spread throughout Brazil, then Latin America, then to Europe – and he joined Paris Saint-Germain in 2001. Ronaldinho struggled, however, with both the expectations and the discipline. He repeatedly fell foul of coach Luis Fernandez, enjoyed the star's lifestyle a little too much and fell into the usual New Year holiday trap.

"Why is it," asked Fernandez in frustration, "that no Brazilian footballer can ever get back on the scheduled plane at the scheduled time?"

The more Fernandez complained, the more Ronaldinho sulked, to the point where his talent and application began to be questioned. Then came the 2002 World Cup, where Ronaldinho scored one goal against China as well as the teasing free-kick against England in the quarter-final, during which he was also sent off. At a mere 24 he now totals 27 goals in 57 internationals.

'I don't want to be rude to our rivals but we are something special. The fans are looking to us to make up for some disappointing seasons'

Ronaldinho's World Cup success led to a perverse deterioration of his relationship with PSG. Everyone had seen that he was a class above the run of French football, and the player and his advisers soon knew it from the string of informal offers and enquiries that flooded in. He says: "I learned a lot at PSG as player and person. I had some good times and some bad but, as an apprenticeship, it was important."

In the summer of 2003 the question was not whether Ronaldinho would be going but when. Manchester United were strongly tipped to sign him, so were Juventus, Internazionale, Real Madrid and Barcelona. The Beckham issue was a complication. At first, Laporta and Rosell were promising to bring the England captain to Barca, then Real Madrid emerged as the ultimate destination.

Ronaldinho was considered 'second prize' when he finally turned up at Camp Nou to sign for Barca. Some second prize.

The first season in Spain was, for Ronaldinho, a question of finding his feet in a club bruised by a long-running political civil war. But he had no doubts about his choice, explaining: "I was a Barcelona fan

as a boy because of the Brazilian players who came here. I want to do as well as they did – and better if possible."

Possible is now verging on the probable with Barcelona running away at the top of La Liga and up among the favourites to win the Champions League, always assuming a ferocious injury crisis does not drain coach Frank Rijkaard of too many more players.

'FC Brasilona'

Barcelona's Brazilian tradition runs from the mid-1950s and the former Flamengo centre-forward Evaristo de Macedo on via Romario, Ronaldo, Giovanni and Rivaldo to Ronaldinho and his current compatriot team-mates.

"FC Brasilona" is how the media describes them, rather than the old, discredited "Barcajax". Ronaldinho has been joined by World Cup-winning colleague Juliano Belletti to strengthen defence, former Arsenal wing-back Silvinho from Celta Vigo and – best of all – playmaker Deco from FC Porto.

Deco was voted UEFA's Player of the Season recently in recognition of his key role in Porto's Champions League triumph and further efforts on Portugal's behalf at the European Championship finals. But, though he plays for Portugal and holds a European Union passport, he was born and brought up and learned his football in Brazil. That, for Ronaldinho, is what counts most.

"Deco controls the ball the Brazilian way and he thinks creatively the Brazilian way," he says. "That's why he has done so well in Europe, because he brought something new to its football. It's great having him making so many openings for us all."

By "us all" Ronaldinho means not only himself and now-injured Henrik Larsson but also Frenchman Ludovic Giuly and Cameroon's explosive Samuel Eto'o.

For Barcelona's fans the immediate target is regaining the League crown for the first time since the reign of Louis Van Gaal in 1999. The comfortable 3-0 victory over Madrid in Ronaldinho's first *'clasico'* was an important signpost. For Ronaldinho, however, and despite his satisfaction at converting a penalty, the Champions League remains the stuff of dreams. His appetite has been enhanced by the 2-1 group victory over Milan at Camp Nou in which he scored the late winner.

He says: "This club has a duty to its fans to win the Champions League. We are one of the historical 'greats' of world football. We were playing European finals and winning European cups before most of the rest had even qualified for a competition.

"I don't want to be rude to our rivals and I don't want to be over-confident but we are something special and the fans are looking to us players to make up for some disappointing seasons."

Some players dismiss personal awards as far inferior to cups and leagues but Ronaldinho sees them "as recognition of my own contribution to club and country – certainly something to be proud of".

LIFE AND TIMES

Ronaldo de Assis Moreira, aka Ronaldinho

March 21, 1980

Born in Porto Alegre, Brazil

June 26,1999

International debut for Brazil against Latvia in Curitiba. Four days later, he announces his arrival on the international stage with a brilliant individual goal against Venezuela in the Copa America

Summer 2001

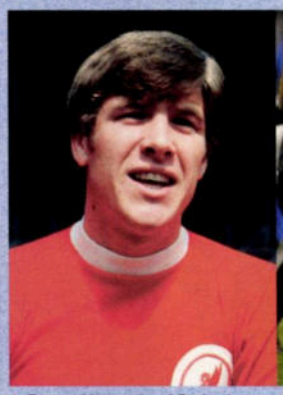
Joins Paris Saint-Germain from Gremio

June 2002

Scores a brilliant free-kick against England in the World Cup quarter-finals before being sent off. Suspended for the semi-final but returns for the Final and the victory over Germany

Summer 2003

Joins Barcelona in an £18million transfer



Former Liverpool and England captain Emlyn Hughes dies, aged 57

● 09/11/04

Mexico beat Guatemala 2-0 in a friendly played in San Antonio, Texas

● 10/11/04

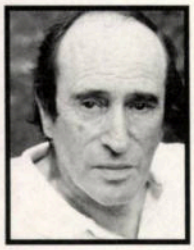
Italian champions Milan, missing striker Andrii Shevchenko, lose ground on Serie A leaders Juventus after being held to a 0-0 draw at Brescia

● 10/11/04

John Toshack is presented to the media as the new coach of Wales

● 12/11/04

WS WORLD SOCCER Brian Glanville



...on Real Madrid's failure to confront their racist fans...England's pain in Spain...why Arsenal should give the kids a chance...Shearer v Lawton and the myth of the winger's demise

THE repugnant monkey noises emanated at the Bernabeu during England's appearance there should not perhaps have come as a surprise. For many years Real Madrid seem to have been intimidated by the Fascist thugs who call themselves the *ultras sur* (south), not only failing to eradicate them but even granting them privileges. Why would the club have spinelessly cancelled the contract of black Colombian manager Francisco Maturana other than the fact that the appointment had been vilified by the ultras, with racist slogans scrawled on walls and threats made?

It so happened that shortly after this I met Maturana in London. He told me bitterly that his contract had already been signed and sealed when Real so shamelessly went back on it.

WHAT hope can be gleaned from such an inept exhibition by England in Madrid, where they were unable to manage a single shot on goal? Sven Goran Eriksson still persists in using David Beckham, regardless of form and physical condition, a kind of sacred cow. Shaun Wright-Phillips, one of those subjected to racist chanting, should surely have been on from the first.

Then there's the case of Nicky Butt. What earthly purpose did he serve? Presumably he was there, given his limited repertoire, simply to shut down the likes of little Xavi. But Xavi ran riot in midfield, with neither Butt nor any other England player seemingly capable of laying a boot on him. With his elusive skills, his adroit distribution, he ran a game in which the Spaniards should have scored several more goals than the soft one they got.

Then there was the barren stratagem of using Wayne Bridge, a left-back, in the left midfield position. Those who felt Stewart Downing should have been given his chance surely have a case. He could hardly have been less effective going forward, even if, as a natural-born winger, he might not have been or be as useful in a defensive role.

To give Eriksson his due, English talent is in pitifully short supply. But where it emerges, as in the case of Downing and Wright-Phillips, it must surely be given its fling. The team that slumped in Spain surely touched rock bottom.

'David O'Leary was only 17 when he began his long and notable career in the Arsenal defence'

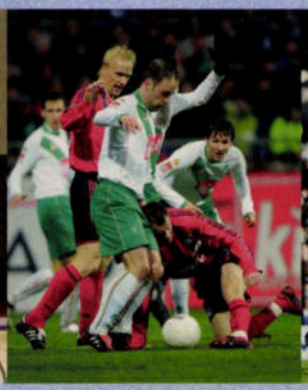
"IF YOU don't put them in," Matt Busby told me, long, long ago after his Manchester United had played Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, "you can't know what you've got." Hence the famous Busby Babes, from Duncan Edwards and Bobby Charlton down or up to George Best.

Arsene Wenger should take heed of the words. Except that after his reserve team's exciting 3-1 victory over the full Everton side in the League Cup at Highbury, he should surely be well aware of what he's got, and what he isn't using.

Ever since the Gunners' controversial defeat in that ineptly refereed game at Old Trafford, they have been shipping water. A dull draw at home with Panathinaikos in the Champions League, their eternal nemesis; Premiership draws with such mediocre sides as Southampton and West Bromwich Albion; a defensive collapse away to Spurs, even though Arsenal eventually won the game 5-4.

It passes the bounds of comprehension that Wenger should, in the expensive absence of Sol Campbell, have persevered with the ever-vulnerable Pascal Cygan at centre-half. Two young Swiss defenders kept Everton at bay – Philippe Senderos, who missed much of the previous part of the season with injury, and Johan Djourou. They may be only 17 years old, but so was David O'Leary when he began his long and notable career in the Gunners' defence.

To give Wenger his due, he has been enterprising enough to give Cesc Fabregas, the precocious 17-year-old Spaniard, a place in the side. But post-Old Trafford, post that 49-match unbeaten



Werder Bremen draw 2-2 with Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga

● 13/11/04

Tottenham and Arsenal share a staggering nine goals in the north London derby at White Hart Lane, with Arsenal running out 5-4 winners

● 13/11/04

Notes & quotes

"A game in the land of the Mafia."
Spanish newspaper *AS* upsets Sicilians when speaking of the Serie A derby on the island between Messina and Palermo.

"The chairman's assured me that I'm completely in charge of my own job. No one will interfere. It's fine with me."
Harry Redknapp, hours before he resigned as Portsmouth manager.

Premiership run, the heroes have looked so tired.

NEWCASTLE manager Graeme Souness was in challenging form after his side had beaten Crystal Palace with a couple of late goals. Firstly, when he asserted that Alan Shearer, absent with a thigh injury, was the finest of all England strikers. Secondly, when he heaped scorn on the notion that anything like a winger now existed.

I suggested to him that Tommy Lawton was a better choice than Shearer. Another journalist named Nat Lofthouse and Stanley Mortensen, who was known at times to lead the Blackpool attack, but was essentially a goalscoring, dashing inside-forward.

Distance lends enchantment, but I still believe Lawton would have flourished now or at any other time. Alas, he never played in a World Cup, though he could perhaps have done in Brazil in 1950. By then, however, he had left Chelsea for Third Division South Notts County and had suffered from back trouble.

Though under six foot, Lawton was unparalleled in the air; the word was that he even managed to 'hang' there. He was also formidable with either foot on the ground. A great player beyond all doubt.

Shearer did play in the 1998 World Cup, though without setting France alight. He came to Euro 96 after a period of drought, which ended when he scored against Switzerland from what looked like an offside position. I'm well aware of his merits, his power, commitment, finishing ability, but I see him as an excellent rather than a great player.

As for wingers, Souness scathingly dismissed the very idea. They were just flank players. In so far as the volatile French left-footer Laurent Robert seemed to the uninitiated among us to have just given a classic display of wing play, on both flanks, hitting the Palace bar from a free-kick and setting up Craig Bellamy for the second Newcastle goal, it all seemed strange to hear. But Souness told us that he wanted Robert to do more in terms of checking back to help his defence.

Haven't we heard all this before? Not least from Jack Charlton in his days as Sheffield Wednesday manager, when he upbraided me as a romantic for believing that wingers still lived. Yet of course they do. A mere "flank" player – David Beckham, for one, you might say – can never beat the defender on the outside, go to the byline and pull the ball back into the goalmouth, the most dangerous pass in the game. Robert can splendidly do that.

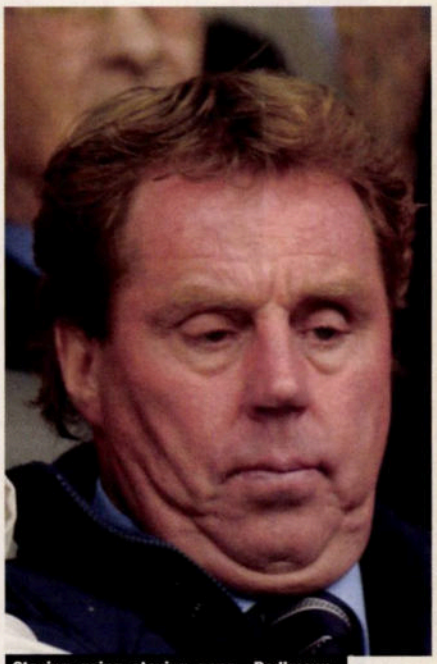
Opposite him was Crystal Palace's young Wayne Routledge, again a born right-winger, much coveted by other clubs, and very lively and elusive in the first half.

Of course, in contemporary football, wingers are expected to 'work back', as they mostly do. But Damien Duff of the Republic of Ireland and Chelsea is surely a classical winger, as is Dutchman and Chelsea team-mate Arjen Robben. Robben proved it at Euro 2004, as did Spain's Joaquin and Czech Karel Poborsky.

Try to kick wingers out through the front door, and they will come back through the window – whatever terminology you may use in the vain attempt to deny their existence.

'Souness dismissed wingers as just flank players but Robert gave a classic display of wing play'

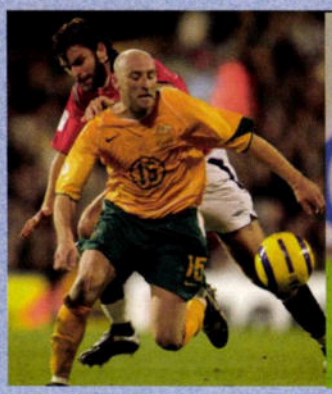
Read Brian Glanville's weekly column at www.worldsoccer.com



Staying, going, staying, gone...Redknapp

"Up to now, the only constant success in our attack has been Shevchenko. We cannot always rely on him."
Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti warns his squad against being Sheva-dependent.

"Some will think I'm crazy but it can't get any worse than it already is."
Mario Basler, the former Bayern Munich and Germany midfielder who now coaches regional league side Regensburg, prepares to play again at the age of 36.



Australia and Norway draw 2-2 in a friendly played at Fulham's Craven Cottage

● 16/11/04

China thrash Hong Kong 7-0 but still fail to reach the next stage of the Asian World Cup qualifiers

● 17/11/04

Brazil lose their unbeaten record in the 2006 World Cup qualifiers after a 1-0 defeat in Ecuador

● 17/11/04

Wayne Rooney clashes with Iker Casillas during the spiteful Spain-England friendly in Madrid

● 17/11/04

WS WORLD SOCCER **Paul Gardner**

Spot the Brazilians

English football's anti-Latin feeling is self-defeating

FEELING, AS I DO, certain that Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger reads this column regularly, I was delighted to see he had responded to my recent whine about there not being enough Brazilians playing in England.

"Arsenal Seek Brazilian," said the headline, something like that. This time, I was thinking, it will be a real Brazilian, not an Edu-Gilberto Silva type workhorse midfielder, someone like Ronaldinho. How wrong can you get? Wenger was, it seems, renewing his interest in Marcos – a goalkeeper! I've nothing against Marcos. I thought he was the best keeper at the 2002 World Cup. But how much of the Beautiful Game is he going to bring with him? What measure of artistry, of creativity, will Arsenal fans be treated to?

I've asked this question before, but it still begs an answer: is there something about the English game or the coaches or the fans that doesn't want the delights of Brazilian *futebol*?

The stats in the box – culled from this very magazine and therefore of impeccable accuracy – are the number of Latin Americans (including Mexicans) and, as a separate figure, Brazilians playing in the five major European top divisions. They make it very clear that England is way out of step.

Only 12 players in total from South America (there are no Mexicans)? From the continent that has won more World Cups than Europe and has given the world a disproportionately high number of its greatest stars, certainly of its attacking stars.

Of those 12 South Americans in England, only two are forwards – Aston Villa's Juan Pablo Angel and Crystal Palace's Ivan Kaviedes, who rarely gets on to the field. Six are midfielders, three defenders, and one a goalkeeper. None of the four Brazilians is a forward.

Even when Brazilian players are allowed into England, the main strength of the Brazilian game – the wiliness and prolific scoring of its forwards – is not wanted.

I can see no other way to explain this huge anomaly than to attribute it to prejudice, though a strictly footballing prejudice, a matter of soccer styles. English coaches evidently feel Brazilian forwards – make that Latin forwards – cannot adapt to the English game.

It's not a silly argument. The English game is, we are constantly told, faster and more physical than elsewhere. I'm not sure that is correct – the Argentinian game, for one, seems as quick and vigorous. But those who believe the argument – and I think that includes most English coaches – may well feel that Latin players don't run enough, that they ought to do more charging about and banging into opponents.

Quite possibly the English coaches are right. The Latin players who fit in beautifully in Germany will not be able to adapt to the English game. So be it – but I cannot let the matter rest there. Because the Brits have an enormous influence on soccer in the USA, and their attitude of writing off the Latin game is flourishing in the States.

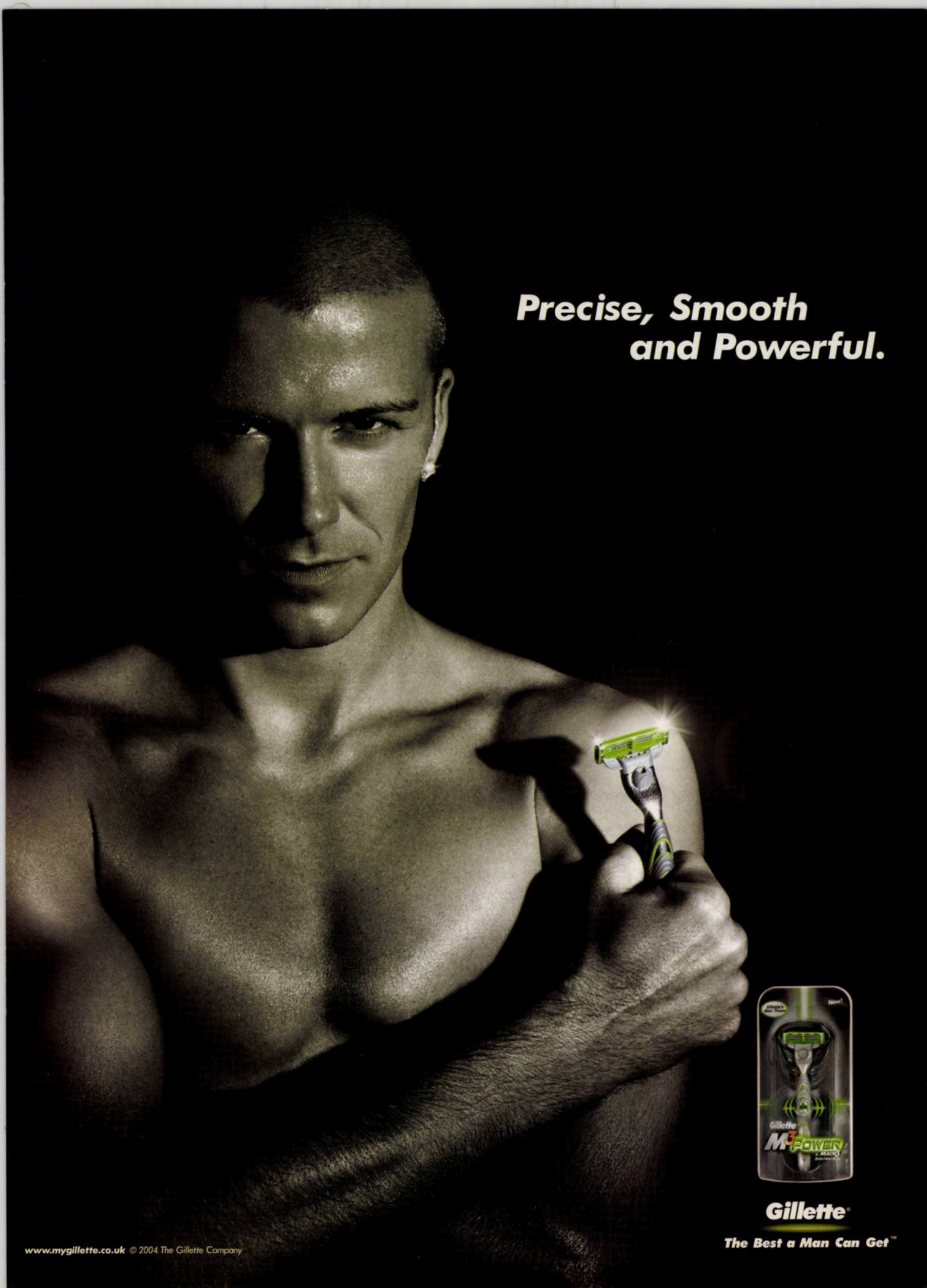
The attitude may be merely self-defeating in England, but in the States, with its huge number of Latino players, it is disastrous.

Consider this: when the Japanese introduced professional soccer in 1993, they made a concerted effort to make sure they put on the most attractive games possible. They sought out Brazilian coaches and players. That influence still exists. In the 16 top division teams, there are 37 Brazilians, 17 of them forwards.

But Major League Soccer – which began in 1996 – has never had a master plan to influence its style of play. It has fallen into the grip of Euro-oriented coaches with the Brit mentality. How else can one explain the absurdity of a League that is trying to attract fans, yet last season fielded only two Brazilians, both defensive midfielders?

'I've nothing against Brazil keeper Marcos. But what measure of artistry would he bring to Arsenal?'

	LATIN AMERICANS	BRAZILIANS
Italy	**58**	**22**
France	**30**	**22**
Spain	**73**	**24**
Germany	**30**	**22**
England	**8**	**4**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Lyon remain top of the French League despite being held to a goalless draw away to Paris Saint-Germain

● 19/11/04

David Beckham reflects on Real Madrid's 3-0 defeat at Barcelona

● 20/11/04

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson celebrates his 1,000th game in charge of the club with a 2-1 win over Lyon

● 23/11/04

Hernan Crespo scores twice as Milan beat Shakhtar Donetsk 4-0

● 24/11/04

WS WORLD SOCCER **Brian Homewood**

Make it global

Farcical World Cup qualifying schedules need to change

IT IS AN intriguing prospect, but if the World Cup qualifying groups continue as they are, then Guinea, Ivory Coast and Ecuador will be in Germany, while Spain and France will be watching on television. The Europeans, of course, will be outraged. Where's Guinea in any case, they will all ask. How come half the South American teams qualify? Isn't it unfair Australia have missed out again?

No matter how FIFA divides up World Cup slots between the six continental confederations, they are always going to end up angering someone and probably everyone.

Europe will only be satisfied, it seems, when they have 90 per cent of the places. The South Americans point out that they have won more World Cups than Europe and deserve their quota. Oceania will continue to complain that having to play against the fifth-best team in South America is unfair.

There is, however, an alternative that could end the bickering – abandon the geographical divisions and play a single, worldwide qualifying competition. In other words, send England to play in Paraguay – they haven't graced South America with their presence for over 20 years anyway – France to play in Angola, Russia to Guatemala, and so on.

It would make a change from endless meetings of Brazil and Paraguay, England and Poland, United States and Mexico or Australia and New Zealand, while allowing remote footballing outposts the chance to see the world's top players in action. Smaller countries would be encouraged to bring their facilities up to scratch at the risk of missing out on some illustrious visitors.

Before the words "too much travelling" come speeding around the corner, remember that Manchester United, Real Madrid and the like routinely nip off for pre-season trips to the Far East or the United States.

Northern Ireland went on a Caribbean tour this year, while Trinidad & Tobago played friendlies in South Korea and Botswana.

Brazil are always eager to travel to any country that will put up their £650,000 appearance fee, be it China, Nigeria or Thailand, while Argentina are regular visitors to Japan, despite the 24-hour flight. If teams can travel such distances for friendlies, they can do it for competitive games.

With some thoughtful planning by FIFA (wishful thinking, admittedly), it could also mean fewer fixtures rather than more for the big countries.

For example, the tournament could start two years before the World Cup with preliminary rounds involving the smaller nations. The survivors would then go into the hat for the qualifiers proper along with the bigger nations, who would get a bye to this stage.

If 90 teams took part in the qualifiers proper, they could be divided into 15 groups of six, with the top two in each qualifying for the World Cup along with the hosts and holders. That means no play-offs and no head-scratching to work out the best second-placed teams.

All teams would play 10 matches: this compares to up to 14 for European teams under the current system and up to 20 for South American teams. The extra time gained from fewer fixtures could be used to allow teams recovery from time changes, different weather and altitude.

It has to be an improvement on a system that last month forced Brazil to face Ecuador at 2,800 metres above sea level just two days after the players had completed a transatlantic journey with a six-hour time difference and three days after they had played for their clubs in Europe.

European soccer may think it revolves around the European Championship and the Champions League. But would anyone back Poland to win in Burkina Faso, Scotland to bring back three points from Ghana or Italy to thrash Costa Rica in San Jose?

'Remote footballing outposts would get the chance to see the world's top players in action'

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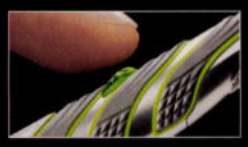

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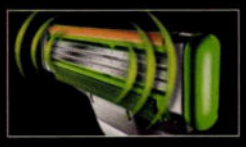

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PSV celebrate reaching the knockout stages of the Champions League after a 1-1 draw with Arsenal

● 24/11/04

The fog cannot prevent Heerenveen from beating Stuttgart 1-0 on matchday 3 of the UEFA Cup group stage

● 25/11/04

Zlatan Ibrahimovic is on target as Juventus and Internazionale draw 2-2

● 28/11/04

Neil Mellor scores Liverpool's late winner against Arsenal

● 28/11/04

WS WORLD SOCCER **TRANSFER TRAIL**

Here's some we heard earlier...

Players rumoured to be on the move in the winter transfer window

ROBINHO (pictured)

Reportedly the target for Real Madrid, Chelsea and PSV, among others. The Santos starlet has long been expected to leave Brazil for European shores. But while team-mates such as Diego and Renato have made the move, Robinho has stayed put – and his form has suffered.

Conspiracy theorists had a field day with the recent story of the kidnapping of Robinho's mother, Marina, speculating that it was a ruse to prepare the path for a transfer abroad, where his family would be safer.

But it now looks as if the whole affair may delay Robinho's long-awaited move to Europe. "I haven't got the head to deal with this right now," he said. "I won't play until my mother is home."

VINCENT KOMPANY

Anderlecht's teenage defender has been strongly linked with Milan.

ALBERTO GILARDINO

Parma held on to their striker in the summer, but Juventus are lurking.

OLIVIER DACOURT

Inter want the Roma midfielder and have reportedly offered Cristiano Zanetti and Kily Gonzalez in exchange.

MAREK JANKULOVSKI

Juventus need a wide man; Udinese's Czech international fits the bill.

TADDEI

Siena are ready to sell their Brazilian star, with Juventus and Roma waiting.

CARLO CUDICINI

Demoted since Jose Mourinho's arrival, the Italian is unhappy at Chelsea.

JESPER GRONKJAER

Spanish clubs, led by Atletico Madrid, are keen on taking the Danish winger off Birmingham City's hands.

VASSILIS TSIARTAS

The Greek Euro 2004 winner has been without a club since the summer, but Koln are keen.

CARLOS TEVEZ

The Boca Juniors starlet has long been linked with a move to Europe, but Brazilian side Corinthians, reinforced by new European investors, could keep him in South America.

FERNANDO MORIENTES

Unhappy on the bench in Madrid; Liverpool need a replacement for long-term casualty Djibril Cisse.

JOAQUIN

Much admired by Chelsea, Real Madrid and others, but the winger is contracted to Betis until 2010 and they will try to keep him for as long as possible.

ALVARO RECOBA

Inter would be happy to offload the high-earning Uruguayan. Another Serie A club or Spain are the likely destinations.

MARC VAN BOMMEL

The PSV midfielder's contract runs out next summer. Tottenham, with ex-PSV man Frank Arnesen on the case, lead the chase.

JAN KOLLER

Borussia Dortmund's debts mean they could cash in on the giant Czech striker. Ajax coach Ronald Koeman is a fan but will have to pay more than his original offer of £3m.

JAVIER MASCHERANO

River Plate are open to offers for the Argentinian international midfielder. Deportivo La Coruna lead the chase.

ELANO

Atletico Madrid are close to signing the Brazilian midfielder from Santos.

STEVEN GERRARD

Chelsea remain firm admirers of the Liverpool captain, though a move will probably have to wait until next summer, when Real Madrid will also be interested.

ALESSIO TACCHINARDI

Injury-hit Barcelona need a defensive midfielder. The Juventus man would fit the bill on loan, just as Edgar Davids did last season.

GABRIEL BATISTUTA

The silly season has come early, but reports in Spain have suggested Barcelona may try to sign the former Argentinian international striker as stop-gap cover for the injured Henrik Larsson.

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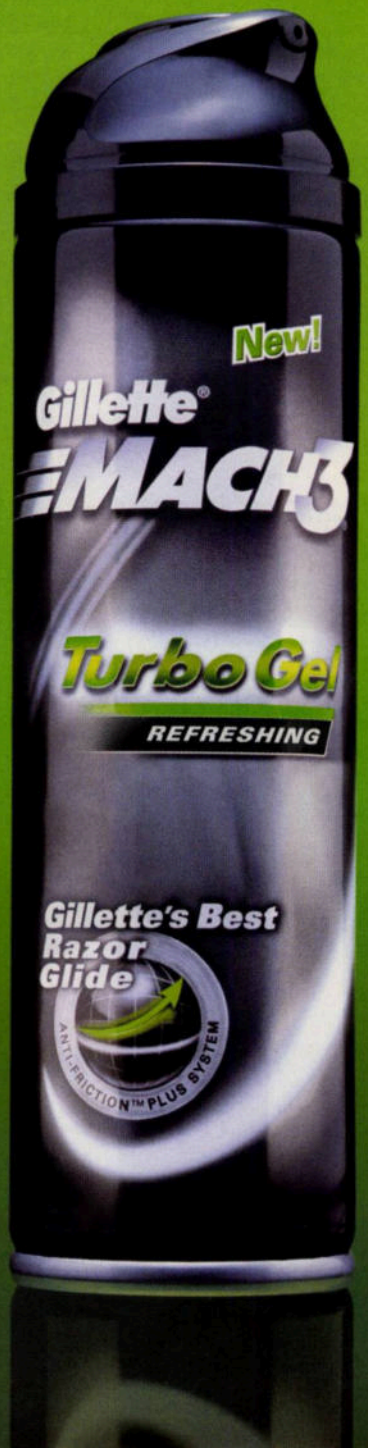

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Drugs jolt for Juve

PADDY AGNEW in Rome

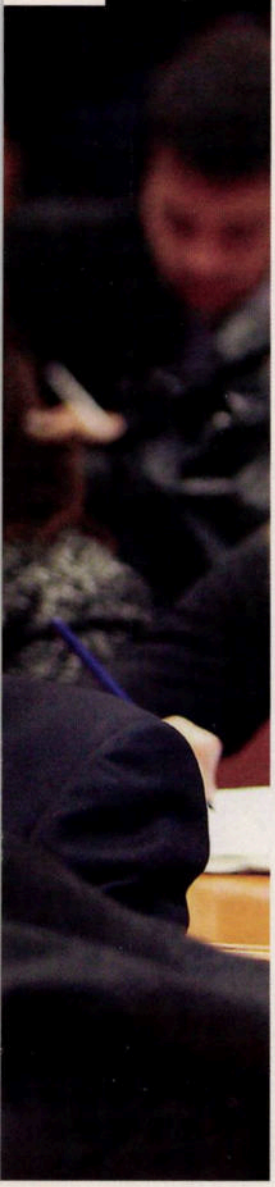
Club doctor convicted of administering prohibited substances to players

JUVENTUS, sweeping all before them in both the Champions League and Serie A this season, found themselves at the centre of a blaze of unwelcome publicity on the last weekend of November following the verdict in the so-called "Processo Juve" or Juventus Trial.

Club doctor Ricardo Agricola was convicted of administering prohibited substances to team players and given a 22-month suspended prison sentence by a Turin court. However, Juve chairman Antonio Giraudo, who along with Agricola had been accused of overseeing systematic doping practices, was acquitted.

The court sentence was the latest but not the last chapter in a six-year investigation and subsequent trial. It began in summer 1998, when current Lecce coach, Czech Zdenek Zeman, told Italian weekly *L'Espresso* that doping practices were widespread in Italian football.

Although a full understanding of the sentence will not be possible until presiding judge Giuseppe Casalbore releases his "motivazioni", or judge's opinion, early next year, Agricola's conviction has obvious and immediate implications. For a start, the guilty verdict implies that Judge Casalbore has upheld the prosecution's case – namely that Juventus, via their team doctor, were guilty of systematic doping practices, including the use of



Silenced in court... Juventus chairman Antonio Giraudo (left) and club doctor Ricardo Agricola await the verdict

eritropoietina (EPO) in the period between 1994 and 1998. This period was marked by significant success, including one Champions League triumph and three Serie A titles.

Charged with having violated a 1989 law on "sporting fraud", Agricola was found guilty not only of committing fraudulent acts "intended to alter the results of sporting competitions" but also of having administered pharmaceutical products that might have endangered footballers' health.

The court would appear to have upheld the prosecution's accusation that the doctor "doped" Juventus players not only by the use of EPO but also by the "off-label" use of legitimate medicines, normally used for patients with psychological problems or recovering from brain surgery, but in this case administered to healthy, young athletes.

Inevitably, immediate reaction to the court's judgement was wildly contrasting, with both Juventus and state prosecutor Raffaele Guariniello claiming victory.

Back in favour...Roma forward Cassano

● What a difference a month makes. At the start of November Antonio Cassano was training alone, having been dropped from Roma's squad after a bust-up with coach Luigi Del Neri.

"The player has repeatedly shown a lack of respect towards the president, the coach and his team-mates," said club chief executive Rosella Sensi.

By the end of the month, Cassano was back in the fold and a hero again, having set up all the goals in Roma's 4-0 defeat of Siena.

Juve look to appeal

Giraudo and the Juventus legal team expressed their belief that the chairman's acquittal would lead to the acquittal of Agricola in an appeals court.

Senior defence lawyer Luigi Chiappero put it this way: "I'm satisfied that Giraudo has been acquitted but we will continue to fight to clear Dr Agricola's name, certain of our just case. We will now take this to the appeals court, where there are three judges, and let's hope that six eyes see better than two.

"The fact that Giraudo was acquitted underlines the weakness of the prosecution's case because if it was really true that the club has resorted to doping, then it is unthinkable that everyone [at the club] didn't know about it."

Guariniello, not surprisingly, saw it rather differently, telling Rome daily *La Repubblica*: "The conviction speaks for itself. All you have to do is read the formal charges of which Dr Agricola has been found guilty. The charges speak of, among other things, 'the systematic administration of medicines intended to stimulate the eritropoiesis process, i.e. EPO' to the Juventus players.

"It's absolutely clear, there's nothing to add. If in the meantime certain people have lost their sense of reality, well so be it. The important thing is that the sentence upholds the prosecution's accusations. The law does not exist only on paper but must also be respected and enforced."

For the time being, neither the Italian Football Federation nor CONI, the umbrella ruling body in Italian sport, will be taking any action. Both bodies immediately issued statements reserving the right to inform the relevant international sports bodies such as UEFA, FIFA, the International Olympic Committee and the World Anti-Doping Agency of the court's ruling but only after they have fully evaluated the "judge's opinion" early next year.

The judicial process in the case began on August 28, 1998, when health inspectors arrived at Juventus' training headquarters, then the old Stadio Communale, to "requisition" the club's medical records. The inspectors had been sent in by Guariniello partly in response to Zeman's claims. The coach had, in particular, pointed an accusatory finger at Juve, arguing players such as Alessandro Del Piero and Gianluca Vialli had made inexplicable physiological progress.

As a result of the findings thrown up not just by the club's medical records but also by its sizeable store of 'medicines' (281 different products, enough for a small hospital), Guariniello charged both Giraudo and Agricola with sporting fraud, with endangering employees' health, with running an illegal pharmacy and, in two separate charges, with carrying out improper AIDS tests and improper testosterone tests on the players. The court judgement acquitted both men of the latter three charges.

The actual 'Juventus Trial' opened in January 2002 and has been the focus of media attention ever since as some of the most famous names in world soccer, including Del Piero, Vialli, Roberto Baggio and Zinedine Zidane, were all summoned to Turin to testify.

Judge frustrated by players

Much of the trial focused on the use of the restorative creatine as well as on the use (or misuse) of a wide range of medical products that feature on the IOC's list of prohibited substances.

More than once, Judge Casalbore expressed his frustration with the apparent lack of co-operation from the players, many of whom seemed to have contracted premature amnesia.

During the trial, the prosecution presented the findings of Professor Eugenio Muller of Milan University, who concluded that the club's use of many medical products was "off-label" and thus intended to obtain different therapeutic results from those for which the drugs would normally be used.

'The important thing is the sentence upholds the prosecution's accusations'

State prosecutor Raffaele Guariniello

Throughout these past six years, Juventus have consistently denied any wrongdoing, arguing that, rather than being aimed at performance enhancement, their medical practices are and were in the best interests of their players' long-term health.

Needless to say, there was huge media curiosity about how Zeman would react to the judgement. The Lecce coach kept them guessing for two days before finally breaking his silence on state television in a dramatic head-to-head with Marcello Lippi.

Lippi, currently Italian national team coach, was the Juventus coach during the 1994-98 period referred to in the court trial.

Needless to say, there is no love lost between the pair. As they squared up to each other there was a sense of showdown time at the OK Corral. Not surprisingly, either, both men stuck resolutely to their guns.

'This court sentence casts a shadow over Juve's successes'

Zdenek Zeman

"The team doctor has been found guilty," opened up Zeman "and he was hardly doping himself, he was doping someone. I think that other people [at Juventus] simply have to have known why the club doctor was buying such large quantities of medicines."

Lippi fights back

In response, Lippi was typically defiant in his defence of his former players and club, saying: "This sentence doesn't change my admiration for and appreciation of all those people, players, directors, medical personnel and others who worked with me at Juventus. Many of these guys are still at Juventus and they're still winning. Others, players like Di Livio, Torricelli, Ravanelli and Carrera, even when they moved on to other clubs, were always held up as examples by their coaches, as model players, for their serious, professional attitude. That's why my Juventus won a lot; that side had an extraordinary mental and moral strength."

From there on, the tone of the debate became more heated, with Lippi suggesting that Zeman himself had used substances such as creatine to improve his players' performances. "Sure we did," replied Zeman, "at Lazio [one of his former clubs] but only for a month and only at a dosage of three grams per day, not the 20 grams that Juventus used daily."

As the brief exchange concluded, Lippi invited Zeman to "get out of football" if he wanted to criticise it. No, no, replied Zeman, "you can be part of the system because you want to improve it, to make it cleaner".

Later, speaking to reporters, Zeman touched on the theme again: "You lot say that Juventus are satisfied. For me, that's the most serious aspect of the whole business. This is a court sentence that casts a shadow over Juve's successes. The [club] doctor is convicted of sporting fraud and the club didn't know? As far as I'm concerned, the club directors and management are also involved."

Zeman is an unusual figure in the conformist, conservative, hierarchical world of FootBiz. He regularly breaks through the 'omerta' of football-speak to articulate uncomfortable truths. In this case, a Turin prosecutor and a Turin court were listening to him.

The question remains, however – is European and world football, from FIFA and UEFA down to your local amateur club, listening? Or is it just too easy to turn a deaf ear as we get on with the thing we all love most, namely watching and admiring the splendid, sometimes inspirational skills of the great players of the contemporary game? On that one, the jury is still out.

Inter put brake on Old Lady

IF THE LAST weekend of November was to prove a dramatic, traumatic one for Juventus for off-the-field reasons, it was also destined to prove troublesome for them on it, as they threw away a two-goal lead away to Internazionale to only draw 2-2.

The Old Lady could hardly have travelled to the San Siro with more confidence, going into the game six points clear of second-placed Milan and a full 15 points ahead of their opponents. Furthermore, Juve had just notched up a highly impressive fifth win out of five in their Champions League group, all by a 1-0 scoreline, when defeating Ajax at the Stadio delle Alpi.

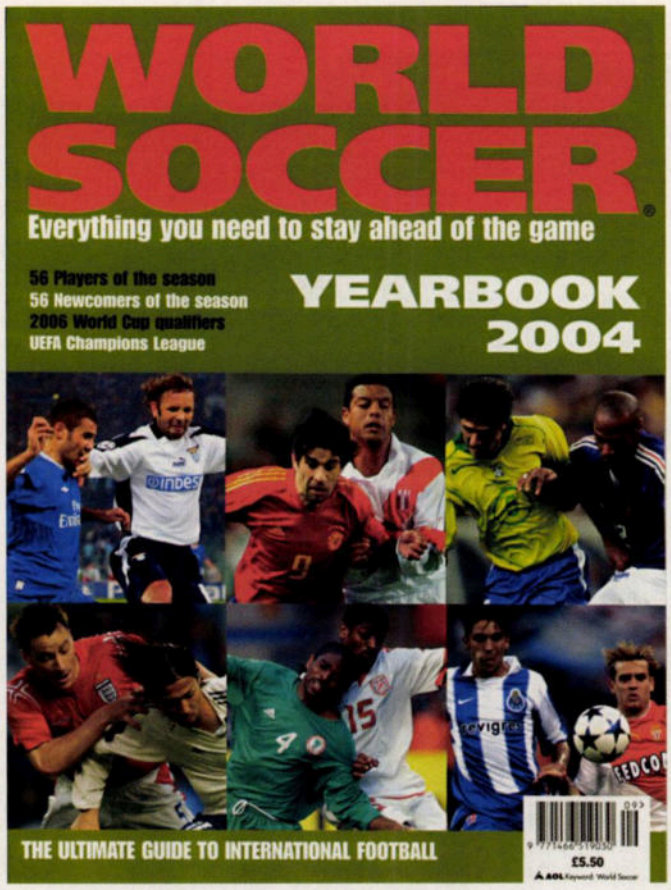
After a tense, tough first half in which the defences had the upper hand, Juventus took the lead in the 53rd minute, almost casually – a Pavel Nedved shot was unintentionally deflected into the net off the knee of Uruguayan striker Marcelo Zalayeta, in the team instead of the injured Alessandro Del Piero and David Trezeguet.

That goal set up Juventus nicely and the League leaders then played a brilliant 25 minutes of football in which they were not only in almost total control but also went on to score a second, seemingly match-winning goal through Swede Zlatan Ibrahimovic, from the penalty spot. The spot-kick had been awarded after Zalayeta had been up-ended by goalkeeper Francesco Toldo when clean through.

But just when we were preparing our "Invincible Juventus" headlines, Fabio Capello's team let themselves down in a rare loss of concentration. In total desperation, Inter coach Roberto Mancini had thrown on both Alvaro Recoba and Christian Vieri to play along with the two strikers who had started the game, Brazilian Adriano and Nigerian Obafemi Martins. Vieri made an immediate, huge impact, scoring with a well-taken goal in the 79th minute and then setting up Adriano for the 85th-minute equaliser.

Inter had got back into the game, registering a remarkable 11th draw in 13 Serie A games this season. Juventus had finally made a mistake (prior to that game, they had lost only once in Serie A, a strange 2-1 defeat away to little Reggina in which, for once, a series of controversial refereeing decisions went against them). And Milan made them pay something for it, beating Chievo 1-0 away on the same day to narrow Juve's lead to four points.

Face-off...Emerson of Juventus clashes with Inter's Davids in the 2-2 draw in Milan



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DC United outdo Adu

Freddy hype dies down but his club triumph in end-of-season showcase

PAUL GARDNER in New York

THE 2004 MLS SEASON started back in April with a deafening roar of publicity about teenage phenomenon Freddy Adu. Freddy this, Freddy that, Freddy the other, and – above all – Freddy the League's highest paid player at the age 15. Freddy was about to take MLS by storm.

There was no storm, there were no super-feats from Freddy. But his club, DC United, ended up as champions, with a 3-2 victory over Kansas City Wizards in MLS Cup 2004, and Adu made a modest contribution to the triumph. Used with discretion throughout the season, mostly as a substitute, by new coach Peter Nowak, Adu brought in the crowds wherever DC played, and contributed a few moments of absolute magic on the field.

Once the early hype had died down, Adu settled in to maturing as a player. His contribution to the Final – he played 25 minutes – was minimal, but he received the most enthusiastic cheer of the afternoon when he entered the game.

MLS will need Adu even more in 2005 than it did in 2004 because it is losing Landon Donovan, far and away the best young player America has yet produced but who is going back to Bayer Leverkusen (see inset).

MLS is learning to live with the brutal fact that as soon as it discovers a bright young player – whether American or foreign – he is likely to be snapped up by a European club. DaMarcus Beasley, Donovan's team-mate in the 1999 US Under-17 World Cup team, is already playing in Holland for PSV.

Nothing daunted, MLS looks optimistically to the future. In the words of deputy commissioner Ivan Gazidis: "Our teams have developed some of the world's top American and international players in recent years and we look forward to even more stars emerging from this significantly larger player base."

The larger player base he refers to comes as a result of MLS adding two more teams for the 2005 season to take the League to 12. And the larger League size means a larger smile on the face of commissioner Don Garber.

Ever since his appointment in 1999 Garber has been slaving away trying to find new investors. It has taken five years, but now

DC heaven... goalkeeper Nick Rimando shows his delight after his side's MLS Cup victory over Kansas City Wizards

the positive things are happening. The two new teams – each paying MLS a £3million expansion fee – are Los Angeles-based Chivas-USA, and ReAL Salt Lake, in Utah. That's not a typographical error, that's how the new club is spelt. They want the word pronounced as in Spanish, Ray-ahl – and they want to play like Real Madrid. As new chairman David Checketts put it, the name "signifies soccer at its highest level, with excitement, tradition and flair".

Checketts, a new name in the US soccer world, used to work for the National Basketball Association. "The NBA sent me to Europe to establish basketball there," he said, "but I learned we needed to bring soccer to the USA."

Another Madrid?

So professional soccer will arrive in Salt Lake City but their chances of playing like Real Madrid, even on one of Real's bad days, are remote. As coach, RSL have appointed John Ellinger, who has been running the United States soccer federation's Under-17 academy in Florida, and has little experience at pro level.

Ellinger is yet another in the long, almost unbroken line of non-Hispanic coaches employed by MLS. Even Chivas-USA – a club that have made a ringing declaration of their intention to be as Mexican as possible – have signed up a Dutch coach, Thomas Rongen, previously in charge of the USA's Under-20 team.

That said, the addition of Chivas-USA and ReAL Salt Lake should help quell what has been a persistent criticism of MLS – something that was voiced last October by national team coach Bruce Arena, who commented that "most of the MLS regular season games mean nothing". Arena, with many others, found it ridiculous that eight out of the 10 MLS teams qualified for the championship play-offs. The situation will presumably be more competitive in 2005, with four teams facing elimination.

One difficulty that a larger league will not solve is what format to use for the season's climactic Final. So far, MLS has opted for a single game at a pre-determined site, called MLS Cup, and clearly designed to be a spectacular event, like American football's Super Bowl. This allows a year or more of preparation and promotion time both for the national telecast and for the personnel at the chosen site (naturally, it's always one of the MLS cities).

Thus, MLS Cup 2004 was staged in Los Angeles, at the Home Depot Center. Things worked out pretty well – the southern California weather was superb, and the Home Depot, built in 2003, is unquestionably the best soccer stadium in the USA.

Things would have been a lot better, though, if the home team, Los Angeles Galaxy, had reached the Final. Their fans would surely have added something that was abysmally lacking: atmosphere. The stadium was almost full, but the crowd of 25,797 included only a few hundred fans from the two clubs involved, Kansas City Wizards and DC United. The rise and fall of the partisan roars of a cheering, jeering, yelling, chanting soccer crowd were completely absent. Even at quite dramatic moments in the game, the predominantly neutral stadium gave off not much more than a gentle conversational hum.

To expect huge numbers of fans to travel thousands of miles for MLS Cup is asking too much. The sport in the USA is just not ready for that. A switch to a two-leg series would mean more lively stadiums, but would greatly reduce the preparation time available to the organisers. The late date of the Final – in mid-November – might even mean winter weather problems should any of the northern teams – New England or MetroStars for instance – be involved.

Anyway, no change will be made for 2005. It has already been decided that next year's MLS Cup will be played in Frisco, Texas – just outside Dallas – in the new 20,000-seat stadium under construction for FC Dallas, as the former Dallas Burn are now known. Chances are high that this will be another passionless atmosphere, because it will need a veritable miracle for Dallas (without doubt, the League's poorest team in 2004) to reach the Final.

Chivas's fervent fans

Passionate fans may have been lacking at MLS Cup 2004, but there should be plenty of them around during the 2005 season. Because Chivas-USA have secured an agreement with Los Angeles Galaxy, paying an extra £5m to share the Home Depot stadium. Chivas fans are famous for their fervent addiction to their team, and have already enlivened several Chivas-USA announcements by turning up dressed in the club's red-and-white striped shirts and bringing a mariachi band along with them.

MLS 2005 will definitely be bigger. Will it be better? The omens are good. It has a new 10-year agreement, reportedly worth £60m with Adidas. It has also, finally, worked out a collective bargaining agreement with its players. That has taken nine years and involved a costly lawsuit brought by the players, but won by MLS in 2001.

Will MLS be better where it matters most – on the field? I doubt it. The MLS coaches are not a particularly adventurous crowd. When Dallas's Colin Clarke was trying to improve his 2004 team, he took a trip to South America and, predictably, came back without signing anyone. He then went to England, and returned with one Simo Valakari, an anonymous Finnish midfielder unable to hold down a starting spot with second level Derby County.

During the 2004 season Valakari set a record of sorts, by coming top in all three MLS indiscipline categories – fouls committed, red and yellow cards received. Dallas, having failed to make the 2004 play-offs, then elected Valakari their Player of the Year.

This ongoing reluctance of the League's Euro-biased coaches to seriously scout Latin American talent while enthusing over very ordinary Europeans is depressing. The big hope for 2005 is that Chivas-USA, by concentrating on Latino talent, both imported and home-grown, can begin to change that mind-set.

Back to Germany...Landon Donovan

● Landon Donovan was spotted early by Bayer Leverkusen and moved there in 1999 as a 16-year-old. It was not a good move. He spent virtually all his time on the bench and felt unwanted and homesick. In 2001 Leverkusen agreed to loan him back to MLS. He joined San Jose Earthquakes, where in four seasons he led the Quakes to the MLS title in 2001 and 2003. He has also captained the US national team at 22, and been voted US Player of the Year three times. Donovan is now going back to Leverkusen, because, he says, "the competitive part of me wants to see what it's like to play in Germany".

'Freddy made a minimal contribution to the triumph'

Flamengo in freefall

Brazil's most popular club are struggling to stay in the top flight

BRIAN HOMEWOOD in Rio de Janeiro

FLAMENGO, WHO CLAIM they have 33 million supporters around the country, are in danger of paying the ultimate price for years of spectacular mismanagement. With four rounds of matches to play, the self-styled "world's best supported team" were languishing in the relegation zone and on the brink of plummeting into Serie B.

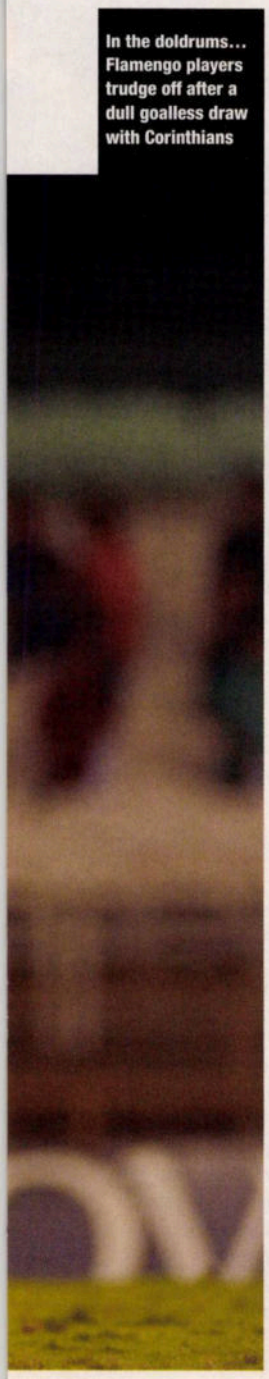
The significance for Brazilian football of this actually happening cannot be understated.

For many years relegation was something that did not happen to Brazil's biggest clubs. Championships were reorganised and rules rewritten to make sure they stayed in the top flight. One year, there was even a rule that "the bottom two teams among those who have never won the Brazilian championship will go down". All that changed with the introduction of the conventional league format and the federation's determination for the rules to be respected.

Palmeiras and Botafogo, two other traditional powers, have already done their time in the *Segundona,* and the talk this season has not been of how Flamengo can find a loophole to stay up but whether they can actually do it on the field.

Most commentators, however, agreed relegation would be a suitable punishment for Flamengo's shambolic administration and perhaps the only way to bring their directors to their senses.

Flamengo, swimming in debt, had trouble paying the players on



In the doldrums... Flamengo players trudge off after a dull goalless draw with Corinthians

time. But the real problem was that the club effectively had two boards of directors. In an attempt to put their house in order, president Marcio Braga had set up a professional team to run the football department, headed by Junior, from Brazil's 1982 World Cup side. The problem was that the so-called 'amateur' directors, who helped Braga get elected, remained – and often took their own decisions.

One of these was to sign centre-forward Dimba, who scored 31 goals last year for Goias, without even consulting Junior. Even more brilliantly, they then handed Dimba a £200,000 signing-on fee. The rest of the players, however, had not been paid for three months and to say this did not go down too well is putting it very mildly.

End result – the other players took their seething resentment on to the field and refused to pass to Dimba, who managed one measly goal which he pointedly celebrated alone.

Wrong tone...mobiles have been thrown on-field

● Brazil's disciplinary tribunal is always looking for something on which to clamp down. This year it is missile-throwing fans. A host of clubs have been given home bans ranging from one to three games after their supporters threw objects ranging from old tennis shoes and flip-flops to mobile phones on to the field. On one weekend, five of the 12 championship matches were played at alternative venues. Gremio were even banned from using their alternative venue after supporters there also hurled missiles on to the field during the 3-2 defeat by Palmeiras.

Relegation showdown

All this came to a head when Flamengo faced fellow strugglers Atletico Mineiro away in a relegation showdown. After just two minutes, Flamengo central defender Junior Baiano – who played in Brazil's 1998 World Cup team and was kicked out of Werder Bremen for punching an opponent and getting himself banned for 10 games – hauled down Marcio Mixirica and was sent off.

As Junior Baiano left the field grinning inanely, Ze Antonio fired home the resulting free-kick to put Atletico in front. It was all downhill from there on as Flamengo, demoralised and dispirited, crashed to a 6-1 defeat.

On flying back to Rio, they were welcomed by an angry mob of supporters in the airport arrivals hall. The fans jostled, pushed and insulted the players, who, with the police nowhere in sight, took the law into their own hands. Television pictures showed goalkeeper Julio Cesar push one fan to the ground and then kick him, while other players also got stuck in.

"He hit me in the back so I grabbed his shirt and threw him to the ground," said Julio Cesar. "We were alone, we had to hit back."

Braga, who rather strangely watched the game from his mountain retreat in Teresopolis rather than the stadium itself, was flabbergasted. "I'm at a loss for words," he said. "To lose a match of this importance 6-1 – there's nothing to say."

Another who witnessed events from the poolside was playmaker Felipe, serving yet another suspension. As a number of commentators pointed out, it was amazing how Felipe – denounced last year as the ringleader of the so-called 'Flip-flop brigade' – always managed to be suspended for away games.

All this was watched from afar by a suitably dismayed Zico. Japan's manager spent nearly all his career at the club, leading them to the famous drubbing of Liverpool in the 1981 World Club Cup, and is regularly brought on for a disapproving shake of the head when things go wrong. Zico was especially shocked by suggestions the players might not be trying because they were being paid late. "That's no excuse," he snapped. "If they're unhappy, it would be better if they simply refused to play. But if you go on to the pitch, you have to give 100 per cent."

Gremio doomed

While Flamengo still had a chance of escaping, Gremio, five points adrift at the bottom, already appeared doomed. Other teams fighting the drop included Guarani, who rather curiously sacked nine first-team regulars with five matches still to play. The club have used five coaches during the campaign and Jair Picerni, the latest incumbent, has agreed he will only be paid if he keeps the club in the First Division.

At the top, Atletico Paranaense led by two points from Santos, with Sao Paulo a further four points behind.

Atletico's challenge has been spearheaded by striker Washington, who incredibly has overcome two heart-related operations to break the championship scoring record in his comeback year.

Washington, a diabetic, was found to have a blocked artery when playing for Fenerbahce two years ago and the Turkish club decided his career was over. But on returning to Brazil, the forward persuaded Atletico to take him on and only pay him once he started playing this year. He scored in his comeback match, against Parana, and has never looked back, taking his total to 32 goals in 42 games. His courage has earned him the nickname Braveheart among the Atletico faithful.

Not even the injury that has sidelined inspirational 20-year-old forward Dagoberto for the rest of the season could slow Atletico. A 6-1 drubbing of Criciuma led manager Levir Culpi to declare: "We're on automatic pilot." This upset the ever-sensitive Vanderlei Luxemburgo, manager of Santos. "Perhaps they'll crash," he retorted.

Santos kept up the pressure with a 1-0 win at Coritiba, where they got some unexpected backing from the Coritiba fans, who are Paranaense's arch-rivals. With their own team stuck in mid-table, the fans thought it would be more amusing to support Santos in the chase on Paranaense. They cheered when Santos scored and even when their own forward Victor Aristizabal was sent off. Coach Antonio Lopes was furious. "They're not real Coritiba fans," he said.

'He hit me so I grabbed his shirt and threw him to the ground'

Flamengo keeper Julio Cesar on how he dealt with a disgruntled fan

End of the line?

Barcelona's defeat of Real Madrid at Camp Nou could turn out to be a hugely significant event

SID LOWE in Madrid

REPORTS OF REAL MADRID'S death have been greatly exaggerated – or so say the *galacticos*. "This dead man is very much alive," retorted full-back Michel Salgado, while on a quiet, bleary-eyed Sunday at Madrid's training centre at Las Rozas, the morning after the night before, David Beckham insisted: "It's not the end of an era, the end of any cycle. It's just a bad result."

President Florentino Perez, appearing (as usual) on Cadena Ser radio's late night show *El Largero*, agreed. "We've led Spanish football and if La Liga is the 'League of the Stars', then that's because Madrid have signed the best players in the world," he said with characteristic humility. "This isn't the end of an era at all."

The press couldn't disagree more, however. And they had a point. Beckham was right to describe it as a "bad result", but there was more to it than that. Much more.

Real Madrid were defeated 3-0 at Camp Nou by Barcelona in what, for the first time in five years, appeared ready to live up to the standard Barca-Madrid billing as the Match of the Century. At last Barca were genuine candidates for the title, top of the table, it was first versus second, with 10 candidates for the European Footballer of the Year award on display and not a single unsold ticket in sight.

This time, though, it was Madrid who let the match down. It wasn't just that Barcelona beat them, it was that they were so clearly superior. We saw nothing of Raul, Roberto Carlos, Zidane, Ronaldo, Beckham or Figo (Madrid's best player by miles was Guti). Rather than a pair of footballing giants locking horns, the lasting sensation was of two clubs embarked on different journeys. When Barca coach Frank Rijkaard said "we controlled the game at all moments", everyone nodded in agreement – when Mariano Garcia Remon claimed "neither side was superior", they fell about laughing.

The opening goal may have been the product of an isolated defensive error, but it was a telling portrayal of the two clubs. Roberto Carlos, leaden-footed throughout, carelessly and indifferently slowed to a halt before foolishly standing aside to allow Samuel Eto'o to burst in, dash past keeper Iker Casillas and run the ball into the net.

As Eto'o raced to the fans in delight, his team-mates sprinted

Take that, Madrid... Ronaldinho is mobbed by his team-mates after scoring a penalty in Barca's victory over their arch-rivals

across to embrace him. "Barca seem to have real unity," said Beckham. The 'unlike us' went unsaid. Roberto Carlos publicly blamed Casillas.

In fact, the result, if not the goal, was everyone's fault. The pace, hunger, talent and zest of Barcelona were simply too much for a team bloated on self-importance, but tired, disorganised and unimaginative. "Madrid move one by one, like chess; Barca move all at once, like *West Side Story*," wrote one columnist, while a radio show guest sniped "Madrid's players don't run. They don't even break sweat. They've forgotten football's basics."

Oles for Barca

Barca's beautifully crafted second goal, which came just before half-time, was coolly created by Deco and scored by Giovanni Van Bronckhorst. Ronaldinho's penalty made it three and it should have been even more as Madrid were humbled before 97,000 cheering fans, who, to the visitors' embarrassment and frustration, chanted *ole* during the final 15 minutes.

No surprise, then, that Beckham described the return journey as "difficult", although the newspaper headlines that awaited Madrid at Barajas airport surprised rather more. The sports dailies from Catalonia and Castilla, who are so often diametrically opposed, actually agreed, penning obituaries for Real Madrid.

Not without reason, either. There had been something in the Camp Nou air, a sense that Barca fans knew they were going to win, that power had shifted. Their confidence was not misplaced. The derby, said *AS*, marked "the end of an era". *Marca* called it the "beginning of the end". *Sport* trumpeted "Take that Madrid!"

One reason is age – and the history it brings with it. "Watching Xavi is like watching *The Matrix*, watching Zidane like watching Pathe news," wrote *Marca*. Alfredo Relano, editor of *AS*, added: "The years weigh heavily on Madrid. They look great in the photo but when it comes to the match it's a different matter."

By definition, Madrid's policy of signing the very best, those who have achieved everything, means buying older players. Zidane is 32, Roberto Carlos 31, Figo 32, Ronaldo 28, Beckham 29. Ronaldinho, meanwhile, is 24, Deco 27, Xavi 24, Eto'o 23.

It's hardly time to get the pension books out, but perhaps some of Madrid's players have their best days behind them. It would be extremely harsh to suggest that they do not care – their career achievements emphatically undermine such claims – but maybe key stars lack hunger. Unwise though it is to draw too clear a parallel, Madrid bring to mind Frank Leboeuf's appearance on the English sports quiz show, *They Think It's All Over*. However many questions he got wrong, however much team-mates and opponents ribbed him, Leboeuf simply replied: "I've won the World Cup." He didn't need to win, or shine, or even try any more.

Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos and Zidane have won World Cups too. Barca, by contrast, have it all to prove, there is a sense of vengeance, drive, passion and desire. A slight chip on their shoulder.

Madrid's problems are more to do with the imbalance of the squad and starting XI, the difficulties inherent in the way the club is run, the divisive nature of the *galacticos* policy.

Madrid players admit they desperately need a genuine central midfielder. Guti is playing superbly in a position that's not always been his favoured role, but Beckham has stopped convincing in the middle. There is little order, Claude Makelele has never been replaced and for some key players – privately, at least – his departure was the embodiment of all that is wrong, a vital player not treated as such by the club.

Resentment and division

The refusal to push the boat out economically was significant in the failure to sign Patrick Vieira – but instead Madrid bought Michael Owen. Sure, they went some of the way to redressing the balance by buying two defenders – one who has been poor, the other injured – but they also splashed out on a striker who, despite boasting the best goals-per-minute ratio in the League, still hasn't been given a regular place. That's because others are untouchable – something that breeds resentment and creates divisions.

When the squad were given new cars recently, only the *galacticos* were allowed to choose a top-of-the-range model. No wonder those non-superstars who do a vital job feel devalued, team spirit suffers and dialogue breaks down. That gets translated to the pitch. "Against Barcelona, we went fighting our own wars and you can't do that," said Michel Salgado.

But is it really the beginning of the end? Barca's seven-point lead is far from insurmountable. Madrid, who let a bigger lead slip last season, have ample individual talent to win titles without truly being on form – ultimately superb but oddly unsatisfying 6-1 and 5-0 victories either side of the Barca game proved as much.

Barca have an extremely thin squad, have suffered a string of horrendous injuries and it appears unlikely that they will be able to maintain their frenetic pace.

"When you are at a big club like Real if you lose a game it's crisis. I still think we are capable of winning trophies with the players we've got," said Beckham. All of which is true – and it is certainly the case that Madrid invite more scrutiny than any other club and that they, more than anyone, cannot accept second place.

Madrid's problems are not new. Last season they won nothing, finishing fourth after a record run of defeats. The season before, the collapse of Real Sociedad gifted them the League title. Only now is it considered the end of an era because the challenge, at last, comes from Barcelona. How that must annoy Valencia, Spain's true giants over the past three years.

Why blame me?...Aragones

● Luis Aragones, the Spain coach, gave a prickly reaction to suggestions he might lose his job in the furore over the racist chants directed at England's black players during the recent game in Madrid. Spain's Anti-Violence Committee met to discuss Aragones' remarks and analyse the extent to which he was responsible for the behaviour of a significant sector of the Bernabeu crowd. But Aragones said: "I don't think the Anti-Violence Committee have the power or authority to punish me. I haven't done anything to be punished for but if they call me, I will defend myself. My conscience is clear."

'Madrid's players don't run. They don't even break sweat'

A radio show guest gives his verdict after the 3-0 defeat

Unfinished business

At 32, World Soccer's 2003 Player of the Year hungers for Champions League glory. By Keir Radnedge

CZECH OFFICIALS STILL bear faint hopes that Pavel Nedved will change his mind about his international retirement. First, however, he has to win the Champions League.

The 32-year-old Juventus playmaker appeared poised to carry on playing for his country when he remained silent during the sad summer hangover from the Czechs' semi-final defeat by Greece at Euro 2004.

The last-ever silver goal decider, headed by Traianos Dellas right on half-time in extra time, tipped the Czechs to defeat. Nedved watched from the dugout after being forced out of the game in the first half by a right knee injury suffered in a penalty box clash with Kostas Katsouranis.

Another big Final had thus slipped beyond his reach. The reigning *World Soccer* Player of the Year had sat out the Champions League Final the previous year. A second yellow card in the second leg of Juve's semi-final victory over Real Madrid – in which he scored the tie-deciding goal – had barred him from the climactic clash with Milan at Old Trafford.

'I have this season and next in which to achieve my ambition, then I'm going to retire...after all, I'm no kid'

Battered knees

The first all-Italian Champions League Final ended in a goalless stalemate after extra time and Milan won on penalties. Juve fans will always believe that, with Nedved steering the ship in Manchester, they would have been European champions for the third time.

Rancour from that Champions League campaign was still biting Nedved after Euro 2004. When he eventually told national coach Karel Bruckner he was not going to play in the World Cup qualifiers, the justification was the need to protect his battered knees for the sake of his club career – and the Champions League.

"I have this season and the next in which to achieve my ambition of winning the Champions League," says Nedved. "After that I'm going to retire from playing because playing a game at top level every three days is tough. After all, I'm no kid, I'm 32 now. Time is getting on."

Hence Czech officials' support for Juventus this term. Victory for Juventus in Istanbul next May would, they hope, exorcise that ghost and revive Nedved's enthusiasm for another international challenge in the 2006 World Cup. Thus far the Czechs, after a losing start away to perpetual rivals Holland, pulled themselves together for a hat-trick of wins over Romania, Armenia and Macedonia.

"I know some people thought it was the wrong decision. But I would rather take the decision myself than play on and on and wait for the inevitable time when I'm not good enough to be selected any more," says Nedved.

Since emerging from five developing years with Dukla and Sparta Prague, Nedved has won the Cup-winners Cup and the European Supercup with Lazio and, in Italy, three championships (one with Lazio, two with Juventus), two Italian Cups (with Lazio) and three Italian Supercups (two with Juventus, one with Lazio).

But the Champions League is the crown that both eludes and nags at him.

Juventus have started impressively, beating Sweden's Djurgardens in the third qualifying round then winning all their initial five games in Group C. Nedved scored the third of Juve's four goals in Stockholm, the lone goal in the win away to Ajax and then the even more important winner at home to Bayern Munich in the Stadio delle Alpi.

That goal, which edged Juventus within reach of the second round, also came just in time to quell the increasing impatience of coach Fabio Capello with Nedved's inconsistent early-season form.

Adjusting to the battering of the years was one handicap. Nedved says: "The knee is OK now but it's taken time. I had a lot of recuperative treatment and physiotherapy in time to get fit for the Champions League tie with Djurgardens. It hurts now and again. Nothing serious, just to remind me it's there. That's why I decided to quit the national team. But it doesn't stop me running, passing, shooting to the maximum I can for my club."

Zeman cloud

Nedved will not be drawn on the cloud cast over Italian football by Zdenek Zeman, his fellow countryman. Zeman had pointed the initial finger of doping suspicion at Juventus in 1998 and was a resonant public critic of Nedved's decision to quit 'their' national team. Asked about Zeman, Nedved declines to comment – "he lives his life, I live mine".

He has also learned the cautious approach to forecasting. Juve's 2-2 draw with Inter may have left Nedved and co four points clear of Milan in Serie A but Nedved is not jumping to title conclusions, nor in the Champions League.

He says: "Titles and cups are won in the spring, not before. In the Champions League nothing is decided until the last minute of the Final itself, and in the League it's necessary to hold a commanding position in March or April. Even then there's still a lot that can happen before the end of May."

One key feature in Juve's redevelopment has been the arrival of Zlatan Ibrahimovic in attack. Nedved has been impressed by the Swede, saying: "He has started well but then he has been fortunate to find a coach such as Capello, who can teach him an awful lot about how to handle himself in Italian football.

"Having a coach like that is imperative for a foreign player coming into a new league and club."

Nedved's own role has changed since Capello succeeded Marcello Lippi during the summer. He says: "I play a little deeper now – more of a 'real' midfielder rather than the position I had between midfield and attack under Lippi. It's probably my best position. Certainly, I enjoy playing there, even if I have to defend more than I used to."

But enjoyment does not offer confidence about what the future may hold or the target level on which Nedved is focused.

He says: "I won't be changing my mind as far as the national team is concerned. It wouldn't be fair to the other players who have put in the work, the games and the preparation time together. If the players asked me to change my mind I might think about it, of course, but I doubt they will..."

TAM

The dash for cash

Keir Radnedge reports from Moscow on the new money that is transforming the Russian game

RUSSIAN FOOTBALL is in a race against time. State subsidies have gone and the Roman Abramovich acolytes have taken over, gambling heavy investment and major losses against the expectation that the economic revolution will offer fans the consumer wealth to make the clubs economically self-sufficient.

All are slaves to the target set down by Peter Kenyon, while running the show at Manchester United, of "turning fans into customers". But the evidence suggests that too much needs to be done in too short a time.

A handful of the new breed of commercial club owners both love football and are manipulating it to acquire access to an elite businessman's club and to raise their political profile.

Others have their eye solely on the financial returns perceived to be reaped by the Real Madrids and Manchester Uniteds of this world. Russia is changing fast; whether it is changing *that* fast is open to doubt.

Change is evident on the streets of Moscow for those of us who can think back 30 years or more. This is no longer the drab capital of communism but a city awash in neon and in which any gap between the tenements is masked by advertisement hoardings. Yet there is little evidence that the lifestyle proclaimed 20 metres high has touched the majority of men and women, boys and girls, on the streets.

McDonald's, the Hard Rock Cafe, casinos and ATMs are new arrivals. But the metro stations off whose marble floors you could once have eaten are now stained with the contents of the bottles that litter the subway corners.

Russian football is like that. The old world has gone but the new face is deceptive: the image is bright and positive but it's suspiciously difficult to peer into whatever may lurk beyond. The national team, tottering haphazardly from one crisis to another, may say more about the state of the domestic game than the bright if brief forays of CSKA and Lokomotiv Moscow into the Champions League.

Explaining the Russian national team also explains much about the history of the domestic game and its administration.

Back in the mid-1920s communist rigour was brought to organised sport. No longer considered a frivolity, football was organised under the auspices of a Soviet federation whose command reached thousands of miles north, south, east and west – far beyond Russia itself.

Thus Russian, in reality Moscow-centric, football dominated the subsequent 70 years. Indeed, "Russian" was the adjective often substituted incorrectly for "Soviet". But Russian football properly meant the Moscow clubs – Dinamo, Spartak, CSKA, Torpedo and Lokomotiv. Soviet football was the amalgam brought to the national team by the more technical styles developed in Ukraine (Kyiv Dynamo) and Georgia (Dinamo Tbilisi).

'The fans love to watch Brazilians and Argentines. But the show has to bring in results' *Kryliya Sovetov Samara owner German Tkachenko*

The great 1950s and 1960s goalkeeper Lev Yashin and the 1956 Olympic Games-winning captain Igor Netto were Russian, from Dinamo and Spartak respectively. But Oleg Blokhin, the second Soviet player after Yashin to be voted European Footballer of the Year (in 1975) was Ukrainian as was the third, Igor Belanov (in 1986).

All 22 members of the first Soviet squad to reach the World Cup finals, in Sweden in 1958, came from Russian clubs. But by 1990 in Italy, the last Soviet World Cup squad featured 'only' five players from clubs in Russia, nine from Ukraine, one from Belarus and seven from western European clubs (Georgia having seceded by now from the Soviet sports system).

The original Union of Soviet Socialist Republics comprised 11 regions. All seized independence after the communist collapse – which means that Russian football now, at last, means just that. But the communist collapse meant not only the end of state control but also the overnight withdrawal of sports subsidies. Suddenly, the clubs were thrown out into the financial street.

Originally the clubs had been easy to assign within the controlling and competing powers of the state. CSKA were the army team, Lokomotiv the railways, Torpedo the motor industry and Dinamo the Interior Ministry and police. Now only the names remain as facades for new owners from the private sector and their sponsors. And the nicknames, of course: CSKA remain 'horses', Dinamo the 'cops' and Spartak the 'meatmen' or 'pigs' because of a traditional connection with the meat industry.

All, bar one, have had to find commercial investors to stay afloat.

The exception are the newly-crowned League champions, Lokomotiv. They remain under the ownership of the state railways company, which financed the bright new stadium the club hire out for Champions League use. This is the only club ground up to anything like western European standards with the facilities demanded by UEFA and its television and commercial partners.

Moscow also boasts the Luzhniki Olympic complex but that is another story altogether.

New owners' investment has been poured largely into players and wages. Now that the stars of Ukraine, Belarus and Georgia prefer to go west for football fame and fortune, Russia's clubs have had to fill the talent gap from the Balkans and South America.

"Financially," says German Tkachenko, owner of Kryliya Sovetov Samara, "we can compete with Holland, Belgium and France in terms of wages." It also helps that the tax rate is an across-the-board 13 per cent. Tkachenko, 34, is typical of the new generation of club bosses, who include CSKA's Yevgeni Giner, Spartak's CEO Leonid Fedun – vice-president of Lukoil, Saturn's Igor Dmitriev, a significant figure in the Moscow council, Shinnik's Nikolai Tonkov, another state senator, FC Moscow's Youri Belous, a tobacco magnate, and Kuban's Alexander Tkachev, governor of the region of Krasnodar.

Astronomical wage

An example of the clubs' financial extravagance was CSKA's summer capture of Brazilian striker Vagner Love from Palmeiras, who is paid more than £35,000 a month. This is merely respectable by western European standards but astronomical compared with the earnings of a Russian fan in the street. CSKA's Russian players earn between £18,000 and £24,000 a month, thanks partly to the sponsorship by Sibneft, in which Abramovich has a significant stake. Foreign players, almost as a matter of form, can expect between £6,000 and £9,000 at least above the basic.

"We want to make our football more entertaining, to put on a good show," says Tkachenko, speaking not only for himself but for all his fellow club owners. "That's why we are bringing in exciting players. Our fans love to watch Brazilians and Argentines. But although the show is important, it also has to bring results. That will help bring in more fans, then we can build from there."

The clubs also need serious television money. But this is a new concept in Russia. In communist times the League paid television to broadcast highlights. The process has been reversed for less than a decade and with limited success. The first television deal was for £12million over five years; the present deal is for the same sum spread over three years. Hardly in the Sky league. But Russia lags far behind much of the rest of Europe in competitive

Illuminating...Zenit St Petersburg's travelling fans get in the mood for a crucial League clash at Saturn Moskovskaya Oblast

commercial TV. Playing off channels, English-style, is out of the question. But that may change now two dedicated sports channels are up and running.

Until TV finance takes off, the Russian game will continue to revolve inside a vicious circle. Playing standards may be improving but is it reasonable to expect fans to turn out to watch in the most primitive of stadiums?

For example, CSKA (pronounced Says-kah) play home matches in the historic old Dinamo Central stadium, which was built in the 1930s and has changed little since then. CSKA share with Dinamo because, while CSKA own their own ground, it has been out of commission for a decade after failing security checks. CSKA officials talk of redeveloping but that is all it is – talk.

Not that the Dinamo stadium is much to write home about. The oval, blue and white tiers lack protection from the biting late autumn cold. More fortunate are the media and directors, whose 'boxes' boast the comparative luxury of corrugated iron coverings. The anachronistic truth about the stadium is thrown into relief as you watch the players appear out of a hole in the ground in front of the spectator-free south end goal to the jarring echo of bouncy martial music.

Statue of Yashin

The most transfixing item at the Dinamo stadium is the imaginative memorial statue to Yashin, their greatest hero; the monument is an angled goal to which is affixed a bronze likeness of the hero, in his old-fashioned cap, flying across to catch a ball up to his right.

But Yashin was yesterday. Today is represented by Abramovich and the like. Initially, Abramovich's investment in Chelsea was greeted back home in Russia with scepticism and derision. But that was 18 months ago. The critics are now in the minority and Chelsea are by far the most popular foreign club. Indeed, Chelsea were allocated only 300 tickets for their Champions League trip to play CSKA in Moscow in November because the remainder of the 1,500-seat visitors' section had been reserved for the club's Russian fan base.

Abramovich very nearly set about building his European super-club in Moscow, not west London. Three years ago he tried to buy control of the Luzhniki Olympic stadium complex and invest his zillions in Torpedo, who, along with Spartak, play their home matches there.

But he was probably discouraged by the complexity of the Luzhniki operation and the evidence that fans hate going there for League football.

Luzhniki is the district of Moscow which slopes down to the Moskva river and looks across and up to Moscow university. The stadium now carries the district's name after spending most of its life since construction in 1956 as the Lenin stadium. The name went in the early 1990s, though a larger-than-life statue of Vladimir Ilyich still guards the entrance.

Formerly state-owned, the complex – with its mini-stadia and all-sport facilities – is run by a joint venture company of private shareholders and the city of Moscow. Torpedo and Spartak play home matches in what is Russia's only official five-star stadium.

The federation has applied to UEFA to host the 2006 Champions League Final. That includes a promise to lay down a turf pitch over the plastic grass that has proved the only effective solution to the problems created by the wrap-around roof. As with so many other major stadiums – in Amsterdam, Madrid, Manchester, Milan – the fans have been protected at the expense of the playing surface.

How Torpedo became the official home club in Luzhniki is another illustration of the confused state of the Russian game.

In 1996 financial problems forced the Zil car manufacturer and automotive company to sell off most of its subsidiaries. These included Torpedo, which was bought, for the price of its £2.5m debts, by the new Luzhniki company, which wanted its own football team in its own stadium.

Just as the deal was being

completed, however, new owners bought the Zil plant and decided they wanted to keep its football section alive. Thus they created a new club which was baptised Torpedo-Zil. Later it was renamed Torpedo-Metallurg after a controlling stake was taken by a metallurgy company, and when that partnership collapsed and the city council stepped in, the club was renamed FC Moscow.

To deepen the complexity, while Torpedo are now at home in Luzhniki, FC Moscow continue to play their matches where they always did – in the Torpedo stadium.

Not that either club bring in the fans. Watching Torpedo play in Luzhniki is surreal. The vast 80,000-capacity bowl is a riot of red, orange and yellow but these are the colours of the three tiers of empty seats interrupted on only one side by a smattering of diehard supporters.

For the teams it must be like playing behind closed doors.

Perhaps the greatest hope for the long-term health of the Russian club game lies, then, not in the capital but in the provinces: with clubs such as Kryliya Sovetov Samara and Saturn Moskovskaya Oblast.

Samara, formerly Kuybyshev, is a city of 1.2 million people, 700 miles south of Moscow. The Kryliya Sovetov prefix often signified trade union or aviation links and Samara kept the title even after state finance fell away, because the fans wanted to maintain the link with tradition and Samara is also one of the centres of the Russian space programme.

The club is owned by Tkachenko, a Ukrainian who is now a senator for the Samara region after coming to the city and the club via a circuitous route which took in postgraduate studies in Canada and then an industrial secondment. Tkachenko is considered a close confidant of Abramovich, at least as far as football goes, but there is no doubting his knowledge and grasp of the international game and meticulous interest in foreign players.

That is reflected in the multinational make-up of the Samara squad. Tkachenko says: "We are building a business for the future, for the time when fans can afford to spend more. Big money is coming into football in Russia. This means we can afford foreign players, and that helps the local players, who are inspired by their attitude and professionalism.

"Even the foreign coaches – though it didn't work out with Artur Jorge [at CSKA], Nevio Scala [Spartak] and Rolland Courbis [Alaniya] – are good for the game because they bring new ideas."

'Perhaps the greatest hope for the Russian club game lies not in the capital but in the provinces'

Saturn were also once in the Kryliya Sovetov 'stable'. That was in the mid-1950s and was just one of a string of name changes undertaken by what had always been a regional League club from the town of Ramenskoye, some 30 miles outside Moscow. The original club were founded as MKS Ramenskoye in 1915, became Transportnik in the 1920s, Kryliya Sovetov in the 1950s, Trud (the union newspaper) in 1958, then Saturn in 1962.

Everything changed in the mid-1990s thanks to General Boris Gromov, who had made his name as the last commander of Soviet forces in Afghanistan. On returning home he entered politics. Within six years he had risen to become governor of the Moscow region and decided to fight the capital on every front.

One obvious weapon was the local football club. Gromov put heavy local government investment into the club and financed the redevelopment of their economic but claustrophobically atmospheric stadium. He also changed the club's name. The former Saturn Ramenskoye is now known as Saturn Moskovskaya Oblast (Saturn Moscow Region).

Saturn had hoped to qualify for next season's UEFA Cup. In the end they slipped down to seventh. The end of their hopes was a 3-1 home defeat by Zenit St Petersburg, who had been vainly pursuing the League title.

The match, in steady freezing rain, provided an object lesson in the hardy

Old faces, new game...former Manchester United winger Andrei Kanchelskis plies his trade for Saturn

Monumental…but Torpedo fans fill only a tiny section of Moscow's impressive 80,000-capacity Luzhniki stadium

demands made of Russian fans. Not only do they have to brave the elements but also huge numbers of police. For example, the Saturn-Zenit match was attended by around 8,000 fans, marshalled and observed by 2,000 police – one for every four spectators.

Most of the 400 riot police who faced the crowd throughout were conscripts, whose faces expressed a mixture of cold, boredom and fear of the unknown. More were gathered two deep, shoulder to shoulder in front of the Zenit fans, whose strident chanting included the monkey-noise baiting of Saturn's black players.

Saturn's international affairs director, Timur Lepsaya, says: "This club has come a long way and it's not easy. But everyone is determined we must get into European competition as soon as possible. That will mean more credibility and help us get still better players."

Gambling clique

How long the new clique of owners will be content to stick around is impossible to tell. Some are in it only for the short-term. But all have gambled on Russia following the football/consumer revolution.

This threatens serious consequences for the old guard, represented by Vyacheslav Koloskov, the federation president. He is truly international football's greatest survivor. He managed to maintain command in the crossover from the Soviet to the Russian eras and even clung on to a place on the FIFA executive even though the fixed Soviet vice-presidency vanished.

In early November, however, Russian Sports Minister Vyacheslav Fetisov, the former ice-hockey star, suddenly demanded Koloskov's replacement, saying: "We need younger men who are in touch more with the future than the past. Change is essential: the poor results of the national team demand it."

Thus the national team remain a barometer of the health of Russian football – and the 7-1 thrashing by Portugal in an October World Cup qualifier did not reflect happily on the men who run the game.

As Tkachenko says: "It's crucial to get the national team right. We have good players but they can play better, and the way the national team perform affects my club, my business. So we need a good national team but we also need more stability and government help.

"We need support for our youth programmes and for stadium redevelopment because our clubs provide a social function. But we have to prove we are on the right track – and we don't have for ever."

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BERND SCHUSTER
LEVANTE

Bernd Schuster doesn't suffer fools gladly. He is too strong, too sure of his own ability to do so. He has such conviction that it has never occurred to him to be anything less than completely honest. He is not afraid to break the mould.

So, it perhaps came as no surprise when, after the Levante side he now coaches were defeated 5-0 by Real Madrid, he delivered a devastating and brutally honest response to some pointed questioning from the press.

"Are Real Madrid really so fearful as to change your team, your formation and your style, calling on extra defenders, at the Santiago Bernabeu?" Schuster was asked. To which he replied: "Yes." A stunned silence followed and then another question: "Do you feel sorry for the fans that have travelled all this way to see the match?" Another telling reply…"We travelled, too, didn't we? We're angry as well." Another withering stare and the press conference was all over.

Schuster has always hated losing and has always given short shrift. He recalls sitting silent and motionless on the team bus, not even getting off when it stopped for lunch or to pop to the toilet, for seven long hours after one defeat.

And if as a player he never made a huge international impact, it was more because of his temperament and tongue than talent.

Schuster was possibly the most gifted German footballer after Franz Beckenbauer. Yet he played for the national team just 21 times, only really leaving a mark on the 1980 European Championship. The main reason was his ability to rub people up the wrong way. Asked once why he hadn't gone to a squad party at Hansi Muller's house, Schuster said bluntly: "I don't like Hansi Muller."

And yet in Spain, where the locals call him Bernardo despite the Germanic blond mane, he is a legend. Universally popular (maybe it helps that he never did much with Germany), he was one of the greatest players ever seen in La Liga. A footballer of enormous mental strength, personality and class, as well as wonderful ability: who else could play for Barcelona, Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid and remain an icon at all three?

Paco Gento, the only man to have won six European Cups, describes Schuster as the greatest central midfielder he has seen. When current Real Madrid midfielder Guti was wowing his schoolmates they called him the Little Schuster. And Schuster was the first *galactico*, according to himself. "When I see Zidane, I see myself," he says. "He makes a pass and people coo about it, but it's always the pass I've seen first, too."

Schuster came to Spain at 20 and stayed, at the very top, for 13 years. Now, as a manager, he is back in the Primera Division just short of his 45th birthday and working wonders at Levante, that stuffing at the Bernabeu notwithstanding. Newly-promoted, Valencia's second side were expected to struggle this season. Instead, they have impressed, briefly climbing up to second. And they have done so playing attacking football rather than closing up and kicking as you would expect for a club encountering the top flight for the first time in 30 years.

'Maybe I am better for teams coming up from below…those who need a manager who knows what it is to be a player'

Saying it like it is…Schuster has never been shy of straight-talking

It is no fluke – in his first coaching spell in Spain, Schuster took Xerez to fourth and then fifth in the Second Division, when they had spent nine of the previous 10 years in the Second Division B, and he has infused his new club with confidence and a togetherness the likes of which experienced goalkeeper Juan Luis Mora says he has "never, ever" seen before.

It's a far cry from the days when the club's president hired private detectives to follow players and, despite (or perhaps because of) his strong character, much of it is down to Schuster. "Maybe I am better for teams coming from below than teams at the very top," he concedes, "teams who I can encourage and give confidence to; teams who need a manager who knows what it is to be a player."

Schuster knows. Indeed, he admits that it has been "tough, very, very tough for me to change my mentality from player to manager". He has, though, had good advice.

"I had a year without coaching before I joined Xerez and I went and watched coaches I admired, like Wenger, Ranieri and Leo Beenhakker at Feyenoord," he recalls.

"I remember working with Leo and struggling to come to terms with not playing any more. I put my boots on and my kit but Leo never let me anywhere near the training games. He even put a physiotherapist on who could hardly kick the ball. I said: 'Leo, you're really pissing me off; can't you see me standing here?' and he replied: 'Yes, I've seen you. But you're not a player any more. You're a coach now.'"

And an impressive one at that. Even if he does say so himself.

LOIC AMISSE
NANTES

At 50, Amisse is far from in the first flush of youth but he is nonetheless a coaching rookie, having taken over at Nantes only at the start of last season after a dozen years nurturing the club's juniors. And what a good job he did in his inaugural campaign with the pros, making light of severe financial restrictions to lead a young team to sixth place in Ligue 1. Quietly-spoken, even introverted, Amisse is the sort of football romantic who feels playing with style is just as important as results. His testament of faith is to attack, to keep the ball on

Football romantic...Amisse

the floor and create openings with slick one-touch passing and clever movement. Amisse, capped 12 times for France in the 1970s, is Nantes through and through, having played 503 matches for the club on the left wing.

JAN ANDERSSON
HALMSTADS

The 2004 season in Sweden was very much a personal triumph for 32-year-old Andersson, coming within a whisker of claiming the League title in his first campaign at the helm – Halmstads finished just two points adrift of champions Malmo – and voted the country's Coach of the Year. He sets great store by discipline, controlled aggression and athleticism but the strongest suit of his side is their explosive attacking flair. Not by accident did Halmstads play the most entertaining football in Sweden in 2004 and score the most goals. He spent most of his playing days in the Fourth Division with Alets IK before beginning his coaching career there. He later took control of Laholms FK and had two spells as an assistant at Halmstads (1990-92 and 1999-2003).

DANIELE ARRIGONI
CAGLIARI

In his first season at the helm of a Serie A club, 45-year-old Arrigoni has

Moving up...Arrigoni has Cagliari on course in his first season in Serie A

proved a highly capable team leader and tactician. When appointed by Cagliari last summer he declared that his aim was much more than mere survival in the top flight. With the Sardinians currently in mid-table, he is firmly on course. At his previous clubs – Second Division Messina and Palermo and when taking Frosinone from the Fourth to Third Division last term – he was a confirmed 4-4-2 man. However, he is also a pragmatist and on arriving at Cagliari saw no reason to change the 4-3-3 that gained them promotion. Arrigoni, once a player with Cesena and Udinese, does not particularly like the spotlight but his teams speak for him with their fluid, high-tempo play.

LEONARDO ASTRADA
RIVER PLATE

By steering River to Argentina's 2003-04 closing championship Astrada became the latest in a long line of former River Plate stars – including Angel Labruna, Alfredo Di Stefano, Daniel Passarella and Ramon Diaz – to move to the club's dugout and win a trophy. Not bad for a 34-year-old who had taken over from Manuel Pellegrini only a few months previously. Astrada is a naturally authoritative and respected figure – even as a player he was known as *El Jefe* (The Boss) – who is able to wring

Instant impact...Astrada

'Not by accident did Halmstads play the most entertaining football in Sweden under Andersson'

every last ounce of effort from his team with a few passionate words. He is also sound tactically, having found success with both 4-3-3 and 4-4-2 set-ups. He served River as a defensive midfielder for 14 years and though rarely conspicuous was always reliable. A former Argentinian international too.

MARIO BERETTA
CHIEVO

A nondescript playing career did not prevent Arrigo Sacchi and Alberto Zaccheroni enjoying huge success on the coaching front in Italy, and 45-year-old Milan-born Beretta could be the next to prove that a high-profile professional background is not a prerequisite to be an outstanding boss. Beretta, a Fourth Division player with Pro Patria, has taken a long time to hit the heights of Serie A, spending seven years coaching in the Third Division with Pro Patria, Saronno, Como, Lumezzane and Varese, and two seasons in Serie B with Ternana before succeeding Luigi Del Neri at Chievo last summer. Many pundits predicted it would all end in tears. But Beretta has had the last laugh, leading the side to a top-six place. His

Confounding the critics...Beretta

creed is 4-4-2, with the emphasis on a solid back line, lots of width and keeping possession. If Chievo had a cutting edge in attack, they might be even higher in the table.

GUIDO BUCHWALD
URAWA RED DIAMONDS

The former German international has won many friends in Japan with his work at Urawa, who he has just led to the J.League's Second Stage title after taking over from Dutchman Hans Ooft in January. Buchwald was an exceptional centre-back or defensive midfielder for Stuttgart and Germany, but his coaching philosophy is quite different. It is based on attacking style and risk-taking, a 3-4-3 formation in which players are

never on a short leash. Buchwald, a calm, thoughtful coach and an excellent man-manager, won 76 caps between 1984 and 1994 and was a

Big in Japan...Buchwald

member of the West Germany side that triumphed at Italia 90. He prepared for his coaching career by taking advisory roles at Stuttgart and Karlsruhe. Now 43, he is tipped to return to the Bundesliga at some point or work at the German federation.

JORGE BURRUCHAGA
ARSENAL

Burruchaga scored the winner in the 1986 World Cup Final and is now making his mark on the touchline at Arsenal of Argentina. The 42-year-old has spent three years with the club, an almost unheard-of tenure in South America, taking them up to the top division for the first time and since consolidating their place. Limited resources dictate that his approach is based on defensive solidity and teamwork, but he has clearly made an impression. Arsenal are the club of long-standing FA boss Julio Grondona, and Burruchaga's name was bandied about as a possible national team coach following Marcelo Bielsa's shock resignation.

PERICLES CHAMUSCA
SAO CAETANO

Chamusca was part of Vitoria's acclaimed youth development work before branching out. He started out believing that the side that commits the most fouls win the game, a depressingly common Brazilian mentality at the time. But he then changed his ways and made his name with flowing football, taking Third Division Brasiliense to the 2002 Cup Final, where they were unlucky to lose. Chamusca went one better this year, winning the Cup with Second Division Santo Andre. Still with the underdogs, the 38-year-old is currently coaching tiny Sao Caetano, who have been in contention for the League title thanks in large part to having the tightest defence in the country. Chamusca has yet to take on the test of a big club, though his refusal to take over at ever-turbulent Flamengo could indicate he has more common sense than ego.

CHRIS COLEMAN
FULHAM

More than a few eyebrows were raised when the ex-Welsh international defender was chosen to replace Jean Tigana as Fulham boss in April 2003. Most critics wondered why the club's owner, Mohamed Al-Fayed, had opted for someone with only limited experience as an assistant to Tigana and who was just 32 at the time. But how wrong the sceptics were. Coleman instantly commanded respect and, cutting the figure of a born leader, led Fulham to a ninth-place finish in the Premiership last season. He prefers a 4-5-1 formation but it is not nearly so defensive-minded as it seems, with

Cutting the mustard...Coleman took Fulham to ninth place in his first season

'Klopp is arguably the most in-vogue coach in Germany, praised for transforming Mainz'

deep-lying Steed Malbranque, Thomas Radzinski and Luis Boa Morte all flooding forward. Coleman played for Manchester City, Swansea, Crystal Palace, Blackburn Rovers and Fulham before his career was effectively ended by a car crash in 2001.

THOMAS DOLL
HAMBURG

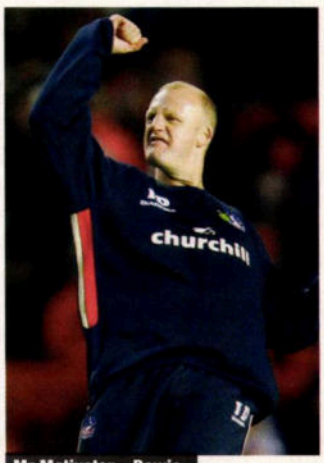
Since taking over at Hamburg early this season following the sacking of Klaus Toppmoller, the 38-year-old former Germany midfielder has revitalised a previously dispirited and clique-ridden side that was heading only in one direction – the Second Division. All those who thought that three years coaching the youth and amateur teams of Hamburg did not qualify Doll to take charge in the Bundesliga have been proved wrong. Always a confident individual, he has managed to communicate that self-belief to his new charges and has not been found wanting in organising his usual 4-4-2 line-up.

Clique-buster...Doll

Surprisingly, for a player who made his name on the left flank, he favours a narrow midfield diamond. Hailing from the old DDR, he won 29 caps for East Germany and appeared 18 times for the reunited Germany. Enjoyed an outstanding club career, with the highlights being his time at Dynamo Berlin, Hamburg and Lazio.

IAIN DOWIE
CRYSTAL PALACE

Bright, personable and totally dedicated young coach who worked a six-month miracle last season by taking Crystal Palace from the lower reaches of the English First Division to victory in the promotion play-offs. The 39-year-old is extremely close to his players, a superb motivator, tactically astute, extremely bold and innovative in his training ground routines, and is always looking for new ways to physically and psychologically prepare his squad. He was not nearly so subtle as a player. For Luton, West Ham, Southampton, Crystal Palace, Queen's Park Rangers and Northern Ireland – for whom he played 59 times – Dowie was a no-nonsense target man, the sort of striker the English game used to produce in spades. Made his name as a young manager at cash-strapped Oldham Athletic before being lured to Palace in December 2003.



Mr Motivator...Dowie

JURGEN KLOPP
MAINZ

Arguably the most in-vogue coach in Germany at the moment, earning praise from all quarters for the way he has transformed unfashionable and financially-challenged Mainz into a competitive Bundesliga force. Klopp is no chequebook-waving coach. The 37-year-old is having to make do with cut-price journeymen but his trick is to improve them thanks to motivational techniques and modern training ground drills. An attack-conscious 4-3-3 formation and a relentless pressing game high up the field formed his recipe for Mainz's promotion-winning campaign last season and it continues to work wonders in the top flight. Ironically, Klopp is not a qualified coach and the authorities have ordered him back to school. Played for Mainz for 11 years before being appointed coach in February 2001.

Wanted man...Klopp

LITOS (CARLOS MANUEL DE OLIVEIRA MAGALHAES)
ESTORIL

This season has definitely not gone according to plan for the 30-year-old former Portugal central defender. After ending his playing career at Malaga in Spain, he had joined promoted former club Estoril last summer as an assistant coach. But there was to be no easing himself into the managerial saddle. When head coach Ulisses Morais quit the club in August after a bust-up with the board, Litos found himself in the hot seat, an unexpected opportunity that he has grasped with both hands. The leadership he displayed when skippering Boavista to the League title in 2001 has again been in evidence and he clearly has a flair for a functional game plan, switching successfully from 4-3-3 to 4-1-3-2 to 4-2-3-1 according to the opposition. Estoril were tipped by many to go straight back down; Litos' good work should keep them comfortably up.

MICHEL PAVON
BORDEAUX

The former Bordeaux captain and midfielder, whose stock in trade was a combative and wholehearted approach, has not changed at all since replacing the sacked Elie Baup as head coach in October 2003. The 36-year-old is not a ranter or raver but players are nonetheless left in no doubt as to what he expects from them in terms of effort, togetherness and tactical discipline. Pavon, an honest and straightforward character respected by his players, likes to keep things tight at the back and hit on the counter – tactics vary from 4-4-2 to a 4-3-2-1 – and he has been especially successful in blooding young players, such as Moroccan striker Marouane Chamakh and new France midfielder Rio Mavuba.

Wholehearted...Pavon

GERT JAN VERBEEK
HEERENVEEN

To think some in Holland thought Heerenveen's standards would slip after long-serving coach Foppe De Haan left to work with the Dutch Under-21s. Verbeek has not only continued the Heerenveen tradition for attacking adventure, for 4-3-3 with wingers and well-worked set-plays, but he is obtaining results as well. The 42-year-old, previously in charge of Heracles and also a former prominent member of De Haan's backroom staff, is a confident coach, a good communicator and whose attention to detail on the training ground knows no bounds. Verbeek's entire playing career was spent at Heerenveen, either in defence or midfield.

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Just enjoy it

In the latest of a special series of features on leading European footballers marking the 50th anniversary of UEFA, French superstar Michel Platini pleads for the game not to lose sight of its real values

FRANCE'S FAILURE AT Euro 2004 meant, not least, that Zinedine Zidane could not (yet) claim to be his country's greatest footballer ever. That is still Michel Platini.

Platini's list of honours is highly impressive, with only the World Cup missing. He has always maintained that missing out in 1986 was unfair not so much for him but for the team as a whole.

His playing career finished, Platini was French national team coach from November 1988 to June 1992, and his next major challenge was in the role of co-president of the 1998 World Cup. Since then he has become vice-president of the French federation and a member of the executive committees of both UEFA and FIFA. His ambitions do not end there…

Platini never tires of insisting that football must never lose sight of what it is really all about. As he puts it: "Football is mainly about enjoyment and sharing. We have to make sure we keep it that way." He also knows from personal experience the wider social effect footballing success can generate. "It was Saint-Etienne's success in European competition in the 1970s that was the first sign of what football could mean to French society. Then came the 1982 World Cup in Spain, a real revelation, a whole new spirit that came alive – and we captured that spirit to carry us on to Euro 84."

Platini says that in winning that tournament, France's first major triumph, "we became somebodies, we reaped the fruit of a lot of hard work and the spontaneous ambitions of a whole generation. It was only after 1984 that players began to be produced in the coaching schools. We had triggered off a change in mentality. French football started to think differently, it became really competitive."

Platini played a major role in this evolution. He had grown up in the little eastern town of Joeuf, where his father was a maths teacher and his mother ran the Cafe des Sports. He came to notice after joining Nancy, made a bigger splash at Saint-Etienne then conquered Italy with Juventus.

As for his international career, he draws attention to one particular game. "Things really took off when I played for France against Holland," he recalls. "I scored the first goal from a free-kick, and we went on to win 2-0 to qualify for the World Cup in Spain. That was the game that made all the rest possible: 1982, 1984, 1986…"

Of course, the 1982 campaign included that extraordinary semi-final against West Germany in Sevilla, when German keeper Harald Schumacher clattered into Patrick Battiston when through on goal, the game ended 3-3 and the Germans won on penalties. "That was a big, big moment. We had the whole of France behind us that night," Platini recalls.

Silverware at last

Yet France still had to prove themselves and win something, which they did in 1984, with the European Championship, when Platini also finished top scorer. He was France captain by then, having already won top club honours with Juventus in Italy and in Europe. He was a star, a major public personality. But then a shadow fell: the Heysel stadium tragedy in Brussels, before the Final of the 1985 European Cup against Liverpool. "It was a tragedy that could have happened anywhere," says Platini. "There were others, such as the one shortly afterwards at Bradford, and the sad thing is to have to say that things always get done when it's too late. Stadiums were modernised after Heysel."

A year after finishing third at the 1986 World Cup, Platini retired as a player, aged only 32, but tired of the stresses and strains. "I'd lost the enjoyment of playing. I was exhausted," he says.

He coached France for four years, guiding them

'Europe has to realise that football is not an economic activity like others'

Through the years…(clockwise from above) Platini with Zinedine Zidane; tending to injured Patrick Battiston during the 1982 World Cup semi-final; greeting France's 1998 World Cup-winning captain Didier Deschamps

easily for Euro 92, but then quit. He says: "All in all, I wasn't really cut out for it. It wasn't my thing."

French President Francois Mitterand asked him to join Fernand Sastre as co-president of the 1998 World Cup organising committee – but Platini admits it was not an easy job because at that time footballers were generally regarded as nothing but players, even when they had finished playing. "It was a new world for me: meetings, elections, administration," he says. "But Fernand Sastre was a great help to me."

After the success of the World Cup, Platini became an adviser to new FIFA president Sepp Blatter and started to speak out: he condemned violence on and off the pitch, criticised exaggerated salaries and demanded that clubs begin to run their affairs better. "Football has to keep sight of its basic value," he asserts. "If I see a team in, say, Belgium, playing with a team full of players from the Ivory Coast, for example, I have to say I don't think that's normal. Young local players are having their opportunities blocked.

"Football has to think of other things apart from money. I agree the Bosman verdict was right in the sense that it frees up players at the end of their contracts – but there have been some pretty disastrous consequences, too. Players are jumping around from one club to another, with nothing else in mind than to cash in each time. We have to protect the clubs who work to develop young players. It's simply not right that the big clubs just help themselves. Football needs to be treated specially, and Europe has to realise that football is not an economic activity like others."

Beauty treatment

Platini is also vehement about protecting the beauty of the game. "It's true that the game is less violent than 10 or 20 years ago. The FIFA Task Force did well to react after the 1990 World Cup so that now players are better protected. But I'm not in favour of video refereeing, as it would keep interrupting the flow of the game and undermine the referee himself, without necessarily coming up with the right decision. I see nothing wrong with disciplinary bodies using video evidence afterwards to punish players who cheat or harm their opponents, but television mustn't be allowed to dominate the game. And we have to improve refereeing. I think it would be worth experimenting with a kind of linesman behind each goal who could spot fouls like shirt-pulling, as well as deciding whether the ball has gone over the goal-line or not."

As for player development, Platini believes nurturing creativity is essential to keep the game attractive and to ensure there will always be outstanding players like him. "In my day, I used to play just as many games a year as the top players today," he says in response to suggestions that star players today often fail to perform at big tournaments because they are suffering burn-out. The difference is that the current top players have many more commercial and promotional distractions; Platini's first priority was always concentrated exactly where it should be and where it still is: on the game itself.

Michel Platini was talking exclusively to Pierre Bilic of Belgium's Foot *magazine, a member of the ESM (European Sports Magazines) group*

Load of abuse...Spanish fans hurl insults at England during the game in the Bernabeu

Carry on the race hate

UEFA inaction gave hooligans all the encouragement they needed

THE GREEN LIGHT to racists across Europe – and that includes officials and coaches as well as hooligan fans – came from the very heart of football government on May 5 last year.

That was the date on which Arsenal captain Patrick Vieira was scandalously fined £2,300 by UEFA for criticising it for not being tough enough on racist chanting. UEFA had fined Valencia a paltry £9,250 for their fans' abuse of Arsenal players during a Champions League tie.

No wonder coaches of the old school such as Luis Aragones felt free to describe black players such as Thierry Henry in the most distasteful terms and hence incite the Madrid crowd into their monkey-noise choruses at every touch of the ball by Ashley Cole, Shaun Wright-Phillips and co during England's friendly against Spain.

UEFA had not only chickened out of taking a lead in attacking the racism scourge but also it had, with its minimalist punishments of clubs such as Valencia and Ferencvaros, equated racist abuse with the minor rule-breaking spark of a few stray fireworks.

That was UEFA in the last days of Gerd Aigner's command as chief executive when perhaps he was demob-happy ahead of his end-of-year retirement. But 'his' punishment of Vieira created an elephant trap for successor Lars-Christer Olsson. It may already be too late for UEFA to repair the damage.

The scale of the racist chanting at the Bernabeu was on a level I had not heard since National Front agitators commanded the English terraces in the 1970s. Indeed, Madrid was possibly worse than anything way back then because the abuse appeared to be coming from a majority of the crowd.

Generally, I concur that the way to deal with such behaviour is to play out the match in hand. But I also believe England could have struck an enormous international blow against racism if they had walked off – even if only for a few minutes and just to the touchline for a 'huddle' with manager Sven Goran Eriksson and his FA minders.

For Portugal or Holland or France to make such a gesture would not match the significance of England, homeland of the game, calling a halt. The television pictures would have gone around the world, into every home, every club, every league, every federation.

Racist abuse is pronounced in eastern Europe, where fans are still catching up from the 40-year cultural and intellectual freeze imposed by the Iron Curtain.

But no such historical fig leaf is available to Spanish football.

Decades of watching football in Spain has long since taught me that football racism is endemic; some clubs, cities and regions are worse than others but none is innocent.

The great Didi's failure at Real Madrid in 1959 was later blamed partly on terrace racism. Years later Freddy Rincon was driven out of Madrid by the ultras' insulting graffiti – so why should anyone be surprised that Samuel Eto'o preferred to play for Barcelona?

'The punishment of Vieira created an elephant trap and it may be too late for UEFA to repair the damage'

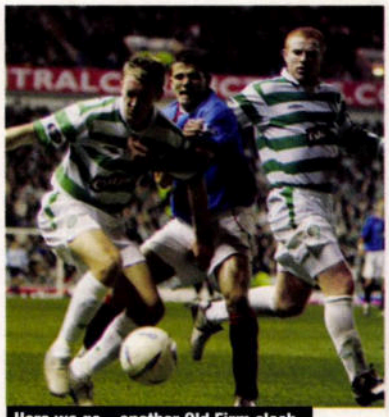
Old Firm, old aspirations

FURTHER upset for Celtic and Rangers in the Champions League has put their Premiership aspirations back on the agenda.

The Old Firm's inability to generate enough domestic revenue to match their European ambitions prevents them attracting the very best players. It's a vicious circle evident again with Rangers' early elimination and Celtic's group stage exit from the Champions League.

Rangers have always been the more voluble about the Old Firm playing in the Premiership. Now Celtic are raising their own volume.

Chairman Brian Quinn told the club's annual meeting that, while debts had been reduced to £14million, little money remained for new players. The financial freeze would thaw only when Celtic could generate greater sums from TV – which depended on access to the Premiership and Rupert Murdoch's golden Sky. "I know some people have their doubts," said Quinn, "but it will definitely happen."



Here we go...another Old Firm clash

Quinn has raised the issue informally with presidents Sepp Blatter of FIFA and Lennart Johansson of UEFA as well as with the European Commission.

Rangers have even more pressing reasons for action – a net debt of £72m, which owner David Murray is aiming to eradicate through measures such as a rights issue and a leisure development.

But the top Premier League clubs do not want to share their cake, while the more modest fear Old Firm entry would mean two of them would go down to the Football League.

How long would the Old Firm need to shape up? Charlie Nicholas, of both Celtic and Arsenal fame, says: "It will take three years minimum to adjust, raise their standards and improve their playing squads."

Three years that would see Rangers and Celtic absent from European competition – and we all know that the best players and their agents will not even look at a club lacking a Champions League calling card. Maybe Quinn's words will not prove so mighty after all.

Chelsea wait on G-14 invite

EXPECT Chelsea's newly-acquired status among the major players in European football to be recognised by an invitation to join G-14.

The grouping of elite clubs currently has 18 members, including Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool. Now G-14 is planning a further expansion to strengthen its fight over issues such as the demand that national associations recompense clubs for the use of their players at major tournaments such as World Cups and European Championships.

The latest meeting in Brussels decided to invite representatives of Chelsea, Newcastle, Rangers and Celtic to send observers to the next meeting in January with a view to formal acceptance into membership at March's annual congress.

Invitations are also going out to Galatasaray and Fenerbahce (Turkey), Olympiakos and Panathinaikos (Greece) as well as Kyiv Dynamo and Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukraine).

Peter Kenyon, a leading light in the creation of G-14 while chief executive at Manchester United, has continued to stay in touch since moving to Stamford Bridge early this year.

Barwick prepares to do battle

My turn in the hot seat...Brian Barwick

BRIAN BARWICK'S appointment as chief executive of the Football Association was a brave step. Barwick is not a smoothie, marketing/accountancy executive happy to swap jobs and even industries on a headhunter's whim.

He has made football his working life for more than 20 years in television, first with BBC and then with ITV. He has even written a book about Liverpool, the club he follows with a fan's passion.

Not that his sojourn at Soho Square promises, necessarily, to be much longer than those of controversial predecessors Adam Crozier and Mark Palios. Barwick does not suffer fools gladly and is used to getting his own way.

The roars of despair when either the amateur or professional faction on the FA board scuppers one of his projects will be heard all the way across west London to BBC Television Centre.

Club U-turn keeps Villar in job

Anxious...Villar appeared at one time to be on his way out as Spanish FA president

ANGEL MARIA VILLAR'S re-election for a fifth term as president of the Spanish federation was not as clear cut as the voting would appear. For a while it seemed he might have been ousted by the former general secretary Gerardo Gonzalez, who had attempted to implicate him in a murky scandal over expenses and subsidies.

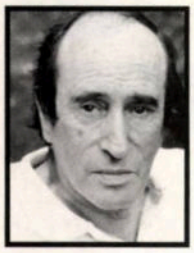
Yet Villar won clearly to leave Gonzalez shaking his head and muttering that he did not understand what had happened.

Basically, Gonzalez had been let down by a number of professional clubs. The League had voted unanimously to support Gonzalez in the election but, under the cloak of the secret ballot, a significant number changed their mind. One assumes, naturally, that those such as Villar's former club Athletic Bilbao may have been among his shy supporters.

In the past, Villar, a staunch supporter of Sepp Blatter on the FIFA executive, has marked his re-election with a disciplinary amnesty. That would suit both Barcelona and Bilbao. Barcelona are still fighting to stave off a Camp Nou closed-doors order that has been hanging round the club for most of this year while Bilbao would welcome an end to the Carlos Gurpegi saga.

This, as *World Soccer* readers may remember, centres on the Bilbao midfielder who has been playing happily on ever since testing positive for a nandrolone derivative more than two years ago.

Gurpegi and Bilbao have chased appeal after appeal in first the sports courts and now the civil courts – where the case currently languishes. Bilbao president Fernando Lamikiz says he does not want the cheap solution of an amnesty but wants to prove Gurpegi innocent through the proper channels. But would he really turn down an amnesty?



FOOTBALL MEMORIES

Brian Glanville exposes the dark arts of former Inter and Juve official Italo Allodi

Nailing the fixer

Wheeler-dealer...Allodi

FOR A GREAT many years, Italo Allodi bestrode and manipulated the Italian transfer market, growing richer and richer in the process. He built up an enviable art collection and had the habit of giving paintings to selected journalists. But those who had known Allodi since his humbler days as a moderate player and later secretary of home city club Mantova would tell you the giving of presents had always been one of his modus operandi. A Turin journalist once laughingly told me: "He's not corrupt, he's a corrupter!"

Allodi began to achieve power when appointed club secretary by Internazionale president Angelo Moratti, *il gran petrolifero*, the great oil man. In this position he skilfully wheeled and dealed in the transfer market as well as seeing to the buying of European Cup referees.

He did not buy them himself. He had a hit man in the shape of Hungarian Dezso Solti. With Moratti's money generously on offer, Allodi sent Solti around Europe to persuade referees. The wonder of it was that nothing was done about it for so long.

As early as 1964, when Inter beat Borussia Dortmund in the home, second leg of their European Cup semi-final to reach the Final, Yugoslav referee Branko Tesanic became a suspect after failing to punish Inter's Luis Suarez for kicking the Dortmund right-half so badly that he had to leave the field.

That summer, Tesanic, on holiday in Italy, confessed to another Yugoslav holidaymaker that he had been bribed. This was reported in the press, but there was no follow-up by UEFA.

Not till 1974 did the grand expose take place, and that was because I had been told by a resourceful Scottish radio reporter in Budapest what had happened the year before when Juventus, with Allodi as general manager, were due to play Derby away in their European Cup semi-final second leg. Solti had been sent to Lisbon to bribe Francisco Marques Lobo, the Portuguese referee for the game, who laudably did not accept. He reported the attempt to his association but

nothing of consequence happened till I got that 'cough' from Budapest.

When my colleague Keith Botsford and I published in the *Sunday Times*, the craven Italian football press turned on us, though most of them surely had known for years what was going on.

A few months later I visited Italy's World Cup training camp in Germany. Inexplicably, Allodi had been made general manager of the squad! A correspondent wrote in next day's *Corriere Della Sera*: "Brian Glanville was greeted by the players as if he were Father Christmas. But Allodi did a slalom to avoid him." Allodi went berserk. "I didn't avoid him, he avoided me!" he ranted. "I'll see him in court and, yes, it will be an English court!" Of course, it never was.

I'd met him for the first time the previous year at the Yugoslavia Hotel in Belgrade, before Juve lost to Ajax in the European Cup Final. I sat beside him at a gaming table. Every now and then he smilingly pushed me a chip, which I promptly lost. Yet four years later in Rome, on the day of the Euro Final between Liverpool and Borussia Monchengladbach, he accosted me and said: "We've never met but I am Italo Allodi; I want to talk to you!"

In Paris, two years earlier, at yet another European Cup Final, between Leeds and Bayern Munich, I spoke to Artemio Franchi, then president of both UEFA and the Italian federation. I'd expressed amazement at news that Allodi might be put in charge of the Italian coaching centre of Coverciano. "Yes, we have told him to draw up a plan," said Franchi, "but who can say whether it will ever be implemented?" In no time at all, however, Allodi was installed.

"Why?" demanded Fulvio Bernardini, ex-Italian international star and manager of the *Azzurri*. "All he knows what to do is to give gold watches to referees."

Curiously, Allodi was later arraigned before a tribunal in Naples for alleged corruption when, for once, there was plainly no proof. Tearful, he was acquitted. He died in June 1999.

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THIS MONTH'S POSER:

Name the famous stadium pictured

NOVEMBER QUIZ
Winner: Charles Richards, Wakefield
Answer: Estadio Dragao, Porto

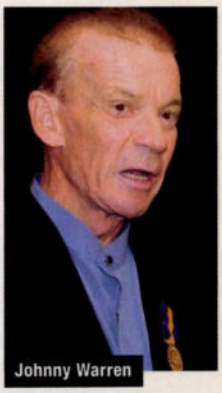
OBITUARIES

Keith Weller

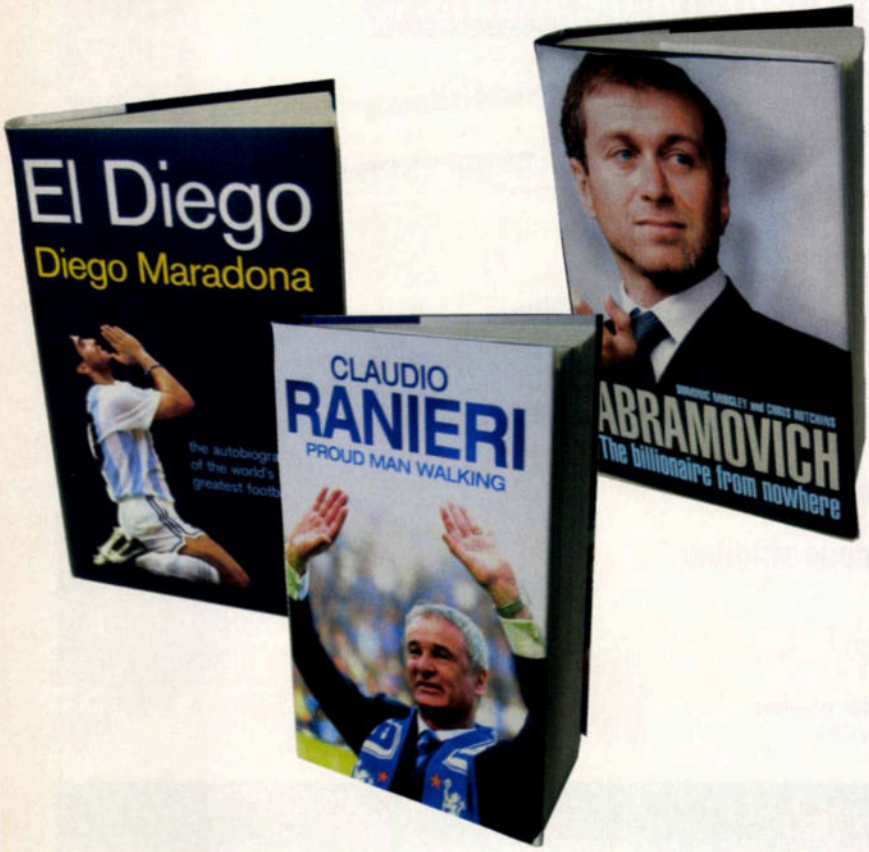
EMLYN HUGHES, the former Liverpool and England captain, has died aged 57 from a brain tumour. Hughes, affectionately known as 'Crazy Horse', won 62 caps for England and was Liverpool skipper when they won the European Cup for the first time in 1977. In all, he helped the club to four League titles, two European Cups, an FA Cup victory and two UEFA Cup titles. He went on to win the League Cup with Wolves in 1980.

KEITH WELLER, the former England, Leicester City and Chelsea forward, has died after a long illness. He was 58. As well as winning four caps, Weller will be remembered for once wearing a pair of white tights in a Cup game.

JOHNNY WARREN, the former Australia captain, has died after a long battle with cancer, aged 61. Warren, nicknamed 'Captain Socceroo', skippered his country at their only World Cup finals appearance in 1974 and worked as a coach, administrator and TV commentator after retiring as a player. His book, *Sheilas, Wogs and Poofters*, detailing his life in football, was an instant bestseller.


Johnny Warren

CLAUDINEI RESENDE, a midfielder with Brazilian club America, has died aged 26 after a gang-related shooting at a nightclub in his home city, Belo Horizonte.



The latest goalkeeping gloves
(clockwise from top)

Uhlsport Aquasoft Ergonomic, as worn by Carlo Cudicini, £59.99;
Nike Total 90 Wired, as worn by Roy Carroll, £75;
Sondico Protector, as worn by Shaka Hislop, £49.99;
Lotto Neo-Concept, as worn by Petr Cech, £35.

Two sides of Chelsea

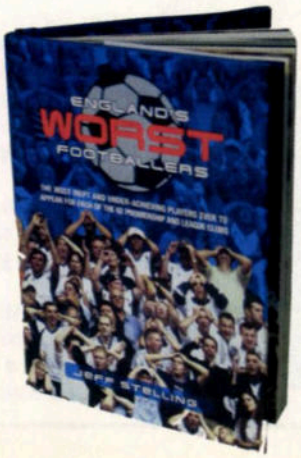
...plus the life and times of Argentina's flawed genius and the best of the worst

Abramovich: The Billionaire From Nowhere
by Dominic Midgley and Chris Hutchins (HarperCollins, £18.99)
A well-researched investigation into the life and times of Chelsea's owner. Some interesting revelations about Abramovich's relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin (Abramovich allegedly interviewed candidates for Putin's cabinet), but not enough attention is paid to examining how Abramovich acquired his vast wealth.

Proud Man Walking
by Claudio Ranieri (CollinsWillow, £16.99)
Chelsea's 2003-04 season – as then manager Ranieri, sitting pretty with his £1.75million pay-off, would like you to believe it happened. Even in this sanitised version of events, it is clear that Ranieri did not get on with chief executive Peter Kenyon, but there are no revelations. One for Chelsea die-hards, though profits do go to Great Ormond Street Hospital.

El Diego
(Yellow Jersey, £16.99)
An English-language version of Maradona's autobiography, first published in Spanish in 2000.

England's Worst Footballers
by Jeff Stelling (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £7.99)
Entertaining stocking-filler from Sky Sports' front man.



Revealed: our second winner

Stephen Henderson from Co Antrim is the second monthly winner in our exclusive Champions League competition. His entry, published here, will now go on to the final shortlist, from which we will select the overall winner, who will win a trip to the Champions League Final in Istanbul next May.

WINNER NO 2: Stephen Henderson

AS THE LAST echoes of the crowd drift off on a distant breeze, the lights of the shipyard pierce the night and lead my eyes across the pitch to a lone figure. A small boy, silhouetted by the streetlight, kicks a ball along Mersey Street, dreaming no doubt of Baros, Henry or Rooney.

Therein lies the reason why the game is dying.

This is Mersey Street, Belfast in 2004. The terraced street that leads to Glentoran's Oval ground once carried Eusebio, Bonhof, Desailly and Deschamps to play for the champions of France, Italy and Portugal, among others.

Those names are now history, as much a part of their clubs' folklore as such greats as Blanchflower, Doherty and McIlroy were to me.

Today, the champions get entry, not as equals, but as second-class citizens, doomed to play in the preliminary rounds and deemed not even worthy of a shot at the fourth-placed teams of England or Spain.

Thus the downward spiral continues, as another generation switches on to TV football, local football dies a bit more.

All we ask is the chance to be considered equal, even for the briefest, fleeting moment at the beginning of autumn. Then we will bother you no more. After all, a crumb from the top table is still food. And maybe, just maybe, that child will kick the ball down Mersey Street towards the Oval, and not away from it.

- Just to recap, we're offering readers the chance to write for the magazine in an exciting new Champions League competition. One lucky – and talented – reader will also win a trip to the Champions League Final in Istanbul next May.
- All you have to do is write a short article on the Champions League. It could be a match report, a player profile or an interview with a club tealady. The more original, the better.
- Every month, we will publish the best entry in the magazine. Each monthly winner will then join a shortlist from which the overall winner will be selected.
- The winner of the grand prize will travel to the Champions League Final in Istanbul next May as a guest of *World Soccer*, watch the game as part of the *World Soccer* reporting team, and then write a report that will be published in the magazine.
- So get writing! Entries must be no longer than 250 words, and must be on a subject linked to the Champions League.
- The competition will close after the Champions League quarter-finals. Shortlisted entries will be published in *World Soccer* between now and April. The winner of the grand prize will be selected from the shortlist by a panel of *World Soccer* staff.
- Send your entries to:

World Soccer
Champions League competition
24th Floor, King's Reach Tower,
Stamford Street,
London SE1 9LS

or via our website:
www.worldsoccer.com

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Future star...Bayern's Paulo Guerrero salutes a goal against Bochum

Bayern's Pro-Ams make last eight

GERMANY

YOU GET TWO Bayern Munichs for the price of one in the German Cup this season, with not only the club's professionals but also their amateurs reaching the last eight.

Both sides could be extremely satisfied with their third-round displays. The first team outclassed Stuttgart 3-0 at the Olympiastadion, with goals from Owen Hargreaves, skipper Michael Ballack and leading scorer Roy Makaay. Meanwhile, the promising youngsters who make up the amateur side overcame Third Division high-flyers Eintracht Braunschweig far more comfortably than the 3-2 scoreline suggested.

By eliminating Borussia Monchengladbach, last season's finalists Alemannia Aachen and now Braunschweig, the Bayern kids have provided a breath of fresh air. They have also shown they have a number of future stars in their ranks, such as keeper Michael Rensing, Cameroon defender Patrice M'Bock, Peruvian striker Paulo Guerrero – who celebrated his first two Bundesliga outings with goals against Bochum and Kaiserslautern – and his front-line partner Borut Semler.

The amateurs are unlikely to progress further, however, having drawn holders Werder Bremen in the next round. In the other quarter-finals, which will be played in early March, the Bayern pros travel to Freiburg, Schalke entertain Hannover and Hansa Rostock visit Arminia Bielefeld.

No doubt all at Rostock would gladly trade Cup success for Bundesliga survival. Nine losses in their opening 13 League games has bred high anxiety in the Baltic port, and coach Juri Schlunz felt compelled to do the decent thing following a 6-0 thumping at home by Hamburg.

Last term, Schlunz was their saviour, taking them from rock bottom to a ninth-place finish. This season, though, he looked out of his depth, never coming close to finding a solution to his ramshackle defence and toothless attack.

Schlunz's successor is veteran Jorg Berger, who turned his back on UEFA Cup football and a Second Division promotion push with Alemannia for the mother of all challenges. Certainly the 60-year-old has the credentials for the Red Adair role, having previously pulled Koln, Schalke and Eintracht Frankfurt out of the drop zone.

Another coach settling in is Dick Advocaat at Borussia Monchengladbach. The former Holland, PSV Eindhoven and Rangers boss has been talking of qualifying his new club for Europe within three years but his initial goal will simply be to keep the relegation wolf from the door.

Erratic Gladbach

Gladbach are an enigma. Despite boasting many fine individuals, notably right-back Bernd Korzynietz, playmaker Thomas Broich, Czech attackers Marek Heinz and Vaclav Sverkos, and Germany front-runner Oliver Neuville, they are notoriously erratic. They have proved capable of beating Werder Bremen and Bayern at home this term but not nearly so effective in more mundane fixtures, such as the trip to lowly Bochum, where they tamely surrendered 3-0.

Consistency has not been a problem for Schalke under new boss Ralf Rangnick. He won all his first six games since succeeding Jupp Heynckes in October, including victories over Bayern, Hamburg and Stuttgart. So, after sleepwalking early in the season, the Gelsenkirchen club were suddenly among the pacesetters with Bayern, Stuttgart and surprise side Wolfsburg.

Rangnick deserves great credit. A studious, eloquent character with a good grasp of psychology, he has restored the team's self-belief in next to no time and has also been vindicated in his decision to switch from a three- to a four-man defence and to scrap Heynckes' rotation policy.

"We have an abundance of quality and the necessary belief, will and hunger," says the unassuming Rangnick. "When fans, players and club come together as one you can achieve a lot in the Bundesliga."

Exploit of the month came from Wolfsburg's Bulgarian midfielder Martin Petrov, who hit all his side's goals in only 19 minutes in a 4-3 home win against Mainz.

Nick Bidwell

In the hot seat...Troussier faces a tough challenge to revive Marseille

Troussier arrives after double departure

FRANCE

FORMER JAPAN COACH Philippe Troussier has accepted the task of trying to lift Marseille out of their latest crisis following the resignations of coach Jose Anigo and president Christophe Bouchet within a few days of each other.

Unlike Anigo, Troussier does not even have local connections in his favour. Indeed, the fact he was born in Paris – which Marseille views with enmity – makes it all the more vital that he gets off to a good start otherwise he may soon suffer for his roots.

Anigo's reign lasted barely 11 months. He tendered his resignation – his second offer in as many weeks – after a 2-0 defeat at Ajaccio. It was Marseille's fifth loss in 15 League games and left them in seventh place, 11 points behind leaders Lyon. The coach had offered to quit a fortnight earlier after his team lost 2-1 away to 10-man Paris Saint-Germain. Although he stayed on, it was no surprise when he did finally quit after the Ajaccio defeat.

"I have a deep feeling that I can't say any more to my players," said Anigo. "I have no more words to convince them. I must quit. I will keep the great memories of our UEFA Cup Final and will be Marseille's greatest fan now."

That was the final curtain for the coach, who hails from the northern part of Marseille, where Zinedine Zidane also grew up.

Bouchet had also been on borrowed time because of the team's mediocre showing this season. Marseille had finished third in the League in the president's first season in charge, 2002-03, with Alain Perrin as coach. Last season they slipped to seventh, though there were the high points of the trip to the UEFA Cup Final and the emergence of a new star, in striker Didier Drogba. Even so, it was felt that only success in the League this term would guarantee his survival.

Angry Anigo

Anigo was angry with Bouchet for having sold Drogba to Chelsea in the summer, while chairman Robert Louis-Dreyfus had been more than a little surprised to see Bouchet sign Lyon's Peguy Luyindula as Drogba's replacement, rather than the expected Jan Koller from Borussia Dortmund. Certainly, the Luyindula buy does not look a good one, the striker having spent more time on the bench than in the penalty box.

Other summer arrivals included World Cup winner Bixente Lizarazu, defensive midfielder Benoit Pedretti – said to be the new Didier Deschamps – and Eduardo Costa, a Brazilian midfielder from Bordeaux. But the team have not lived up to expectations.

With Anigo already departed, Bouchet was left alone to face the increasingly hostile local press and fans, and his end was not long in coming. "I can't stay any longer in such a turmoil," said the president on stepping down. "I can't live any longer in an atmosphere full of insults, anger and craziness. I have to protect my wife and family from insults. I don't want to come to a game any more to see a nasty atmosphere created by so-called spectators."

Fans had also protested in another way following the defeat at PSG. Many simply refused to attend the next home game, against Strasbourg, leaving the areas behind the goals empty. Ironically, Marseille won 2-0 in what was to prove Anigo's penultimate game in charge.

Troussier, whose appointment was announced on the day of Bouchet's departure, is a tough operator who provokes strong opinions. He now has a major reconstruction job on his hands. Troussier failed recently in his role as Qatari national coach, another stepping stone in his somewhat nomadic career, which has also taken him to Ivory Coast, Morocco and South Africa, as well as Japan. His eagerness to take the Marseille reins suggests he is determined to make an impact in France.

As for the next president, it will take a few weeks before an announcement. But the new man will have to cope with the local way of life, where you can be a king in the morning and a villain in the afternoon. Especially if you come from Paris.

Erik Bielderman

Van Galen's new record

HOLLAND

That's mine...Barry Van Galen challenges Andorra's Ildefons Lima during the World Cup qualifier in Barcelona

AZ ALKMAAR MIDFIELDER Barry Van Galen became the oldest debutant in national team history when appearing at the age of 34 in the recent 3-0 World Cup qualifying victory over Andorra in Barcelona. The call came eight years after his only other selection for the squad, for a friendly against Brazil, in which he didn't play.

Van Galen, a playmaker with great vision and passing ability, should have gained far more caps, though his fiery temperament has clearly counted against him. He had a notoriously bad disciplinary record earlier in his career, picking up numerous red and yellow cards.

Van Galen did not impress against Andorra, though neither did his team-mates in a lacklustre performance. They were actually lucky not to go behind since Ildefons Lima scored what appeared to be a perfectly good goal, only to have it ruled out for an apparent foul.

Another AZ player, defender Joris Mathijsen, also made his international debut, having impressed during his club's fine start to the season.

AZ, under former Ajax coach Co Adriaanse, are playing the most attractive football in the country, often lining up with four strikers. So far the adventurous style has paid off, with the team rising to second in the League after six straight wins, including a 4-1 thumping of Feyenoord. After 14 rounds, AZ were five points behind leaders PSV, who are taking full advantage of the travails at both champions Ajax and Feyenoord. The Eindhoven club's great unbeaten start has been based on a rock-solid defence, with the team going 1,020 minutes without conceding a goal.

Striker Michael Mols has returned to Utrecht, seven years after leaving for Rangers. Mols, who has not had the best of fortune with injury during his career, has recently been playing in Qatar having at one time considered retiring after Rangers did not renew his contract.

Jasper Goedbloed

SWITZERLAND

Basle suffer Double blow

League leaders Basle's hopes of a third domestic Double were blasted when beaten 4-3 on penalties by Thun after a 1-1 draw in the fifth round of the Swiss Cup. It was the defending champions' second consecutive defeat, following a 1-0 loss at bottom side Schaffhausen in the League's 15th round.

The defeats brought renewed criticism of coach Christian Gross, who has already received much flak from the fans and media over his tactics and transfer policy.

Only four players remain from the side that reached the last 16 of the Champions League in 2002-03, while talented young defender Philipp Degen recently signed a three-year contract with Borussia Dortmund.

Basle's chief scout, Ruedi Zbinden, has also been in the firing line since he orchestrated the £1.9million signing of 22-year-old Argentinian striker Cesar Carignano last summer. Carignano has scored only two goals since his arrival, though he has rarely been getting a game because Gross's 4-1-4-1 system allows for only one out-and-out forward, invariably Christian Gimenez.

Grasshopper, the 2003 champions, have continued their fall from grace and were only seventh, 12 points behind Basle. In an attempt to stop the rot, football director Thomas Gulich has been replaced by Walter Brunner.

Ivar von Rulach

AUSTRIA

Rushfeldt's recipe for success

Norwegian international Sigurd Rushfeldt has been named Austria's Player of the Year by his fellow professionals after his performances for Austria Wien during 2004. The forward finished second in the League scorers' chart last term with 25 goals and had hit another 14 in the first 18 games of this season.

Rushfeldt, who joined Austria in 2002 from Racing Santander, easily beat national team skipper Andreas Ivanschitz and last season's League top scorer Roland Kollmann in the poll.

Rushfeldt is known as "Siggi" to the fans, though his team-mates have also dubbed him "the second Jamie Oliver" for his proficiency as a chef. The Norwegian often cooks up a meal for the team after big matches.

Harry Miltner

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Shels cling on to title

Shelbourne retained the League title having led almost all season, but their faltering run-in, combined with a late surge by Cork City, meant the outcome was not decided until the final day.

Shels led by three points going into their last encounter, away to St Patrick's Athletic, with whom they drew 0-0, while Cork could only draw 1-1 with third-placed Bohemians.

It is Shelbourne's third League triumph in four seasons, taking their overall title tally to 12, three behind record holders Shamrock Rovers.

Dublin City were relegated, with manager Roddy Collins walking out to join Shamrock Rovers days before they were mathematically down.

First Division champions Finn Harps plus UCD and Bray Wanderers all won promotion to the expanded top division for next season.

FAI chief executive Fran Rooney has stepped down after losing the confidence of council members.

Sean Creedon

LIECHTENSTEIN

Vaduz go top

Vaduz went clear at the top of the Swiss Challenge League (Second Division) in early November, bringing the prospect of them reaching the top flight closer to reality. The club, who only just missed promotion last season, were two points ahead of Yverdon after 15 rounds. Vaduz have also reached the Liechtenstein Cup Final, after beating Balzers 5-1 in the semis. They will meet Eschen-Mauren, 4-2 victors over Triesenberg.

Graeme Crawford

PORTUGAL

Ricardo dials D for defence

Tired of the constant criticism he receives from the media, Sporting Lisbon goalkeeper Ricardo phoned a television programme to defend himself. The 28-year-old, Portugal's first-choice during their run to the Euro 2004 Final, interrupted Sport TV's weekly magazine show, *Noite de Futebol*, to protest against the opinions of its commentators, who blamed him for Sporting's 3-0 League defeat by FC Porto.

Ricardo clearly felt something had to be done to counter a group of influential journalists who still want Vitor Baia to be the No 1 keeper.

The battle for the League title is more intense than ever. After two seasons dominated by Porto, the top seven were separated by just four points after 11 rounds. Part of the reason is that the Big Three have all shown frailties – the weekend of November 20-21 was the first time in more than 10 years that not one of Porto, Benfica and Sporting managed to win in the same round. Porto's 1-0 home defeat by Boavista allowed Benfica, who drew 3-3 at home with Rio Ave, to pull level at the top with the champions on 22 points.

Among the leading pack are unsung Maritimo, being brilliantly led by former Ghana manager Mariano Barreto, and promoted Vitoria Setubal, challenging for a European spot thanks to the inspired performances of Brazilian playmaker Jorginho.

Pedro Pinto

Don't blame me...Ricardo

Anderlecht burst into headlines

BELGIUM

CLUB BRUGGE may have gone into December as unbeaten League leaders but it was Anderlecht who captured most of the headlines.

Their 2-1 home defeat by Valencia in the fifth round of Champions League group matches left them in severe danger of becoming the first Belgian club to go through the stage without winning a point. A few days earlier, Anderlecht had knocked out Third Division hosts Bocholt 3-2 in the domestic Cup despite an error-strewn performance by keeper Tristan Peersman, which cost him his place against Valencia. But the first half of their season will probably be best remembered for the "burst ball" saga.

Confusion...the fourth official holds the burst ball while players, officials and referee debate Anderlecht's goal

Anderlecht were trailing 1-0 at home to La Louviere when a ferocious shot by Walter Baseggio burst the ball before it entered the net for the equaliser. Anderlecht went on to win 2-1, but La Louviere protested that the game should be replayed since referee Serge Gummieny was wrong to allow Baseggio's goal to stand. With typical tardiness, the federation had still not reached a decision on the matter after three weeks.

Chief shocks in the Cup were victories by Second Division AS Eupen over 2001 winners Westerlo, 4-2, and Third Division Olympic Charleroi over Cercle Brugge, 3-1 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

Olympic's reward is a trip to Club Brugge, who should by then have reached the knockout stages of the UEFA Cup. They gained their first victory in Group C, 1-0 over Utrecht, while Standard Liege also got off the mark in Group B with a 2-1 win over Parma.

Those victories were meagre compensation, however, for the national team's likely absence from the World Cup finals following their 2-0 home defeat by Serbia & Montenegro, which left them with only one point from three games.

Nicholas Harling

Party time...Brann start celebrating their Norwegian Cup triumph

Cup of Brann

NORWAY

BRANN LIFTED THE domestic Cup for the first time in 22 years after a 4-1 win over Lyn in the Final. Bengt Saeternes hit a first-half hat-trick, with two of the goals coming during an amazing start, Brann leading 3-1 after just 13 minutes.

The Bergen side then got off to a winning start in the Royal League, a new tournament contested by the top teams from Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Brann's 1-0 home win over Halmstads of Sweden was witnessed by an impressive crowd of nearly 12,000, proof that the competition has been an immediate success. Domestic champions Rosenborg drew 4-4 at home against their Swedish opponents, Djurgardens, in an attractive game but then were beaten 3-2 away by compatriots Valerenga. The latter had started with a 1-0 win away to Danes Esbjerg. The 12 entrants are pooled in three groups of four, with the top two from each going into to a second group stage.

Rosenborg have promoted assistant Per Joar Hansen to take over from head coach Ola By Rise after the latter was told he would not be kept on.

Former national team boss Egil Olsen is making a coaching comeback, having taken over at Fredrikstad.

The national team were second best for much of their November friendly against Australia in London, but came away with a 2-2 draw. Steffen Iversen and Morten Gamst Pedersen scored Norway's goals.

Sigurd Odegaard

DENMARK

Brondby find right balance

Brondby roared to a 10-point lead in the Superliga as the winter break approached after thrashing AGF Aarhus 4-0. Denmark midfielder Thomas Kahlenberg scored twice. Brondby coach Michael Laudrup, in his second season in management, appears to have found the right balance between the attacking flair he favours while also making the defence a solid unit.

Denmark's World Cup campaign remains on tenterhooks after another draw, this time 2-2 away to Georgia. Jon Dahl Tomasson twice put the Danes ahead, but a creaking defence is putting qualification for Germany 2006 in jeopardy.

Jim Holden

SWEDEN

Larsson pips Zlatan for prize

Barcelona forward Henrik Larsson has been named Sweden's Footballer of the Year, fighting off the challenge of fellow international striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic for the coveted *Guldbollen*. Larsson had previously won the award in 1998.

Neither forward appeared in Sweden's recent 4-1 friendly victory in Scotland, where the Swedes had not won since 1953.

Orebro are facing relegation from the top flight because of their debts, which are estimated to be £40,000. Unless they can pay them off their place will go to Assyriska, who lost to Orgryte in an intensely-fought relegation/promotion play-off tie. The aggregate score was 2-2, but Orgryte retained their place on away goals.

Djurgardens won the Swedish Cup by beating IFK Gothenburg 3-1 in the Final. Finland striker Daniel Sjolund scored twice for the Stockholm side.

Pentti Hietanen

ICELAND

Saevarsson spills the beans

The heavy cloak of secrecy surrounding wages paid to Iceland's top players was lifted recently by former Grindavik goalkeeper Albert Saevarsson. In an open letter published in a leading newspaper, the clearly cheesed-off Saevarsson accused the club of having reneged on a promise to pay him £19,000, plus a number of undisclosed perks, to secure his services for the summer following his return home last May from Faroese club B68.

Rab Christie

LATVIA

Record 14 for Skonto

Skonto Riga have set a world record by winning their 14th consecutive League title. Rosenborg had only just set the previous record, when extending their run of Norwegian championship triumphs to 13.

Skonto's title win, by three points from Metalurgs Liepaja, represented some quick silverware for head coach Jurijs Andrejevs, who replaced Aleksandrs Starkovs only in September. Andrejevs also took over from Starkovs as national team coach, after Latvia's Euro 2004 boss left both posts in order to take charge of Moscow Spartak.

Auda Riga took only one point from their 28 games as they plummeted into the Second Division. Ditton Daugavpils joined them after losing 2-0 on aggregate to Venta Ventspils in a relegation/promotion play-off. Zibens/Zemessardze Ilukste are the other promoted side.

Andres Must

LITHUANIA

Kaunas keep the crown

FBK Kaunas won the championship for the fifth year running after beating title challengers Ekranas 2-0 on the final matchday. The two sides had started the day level on 62 points.

There was controversy in the days leading up to the game after the National Association of Football Clubs banished Ekranas from the League for allegedly attempting to bribe Kaunas players to throw the match. However, the decision was overruled by the FA, who ordered the game to go ahead.

Vladimir Kalinkovich

ESTONIA

Andrei awarded despite long-term injury

Estonia central defender Andrei Stepanov has been named Player of the Year for the first time despite being sidelined for three months by a knee injury. "I didn't even dream about the prize," said the 25-year-old, who plays for Torpedo Moscow.

Janno Kivisild wasted no time in picking up his first trophy as boss of Cup-holders Flora Tallinn, with his new charges beating League champions Levadia Tallinn 2-1 in the Supercup. Kivisild, a former national team assistant, took over from Dutchman Arno Pijpers in October.

Lootus Alutaguse, who finished bottom of the League, lost their top-flight place after being beaten 3-1 on aggregate by Dinamo Tallinn in a relegation/promotion play-off. Tervis Parnu and Tammeka Tartu are the other promoted sides.

Andres Must

SCOTLAND

Rangers back on top

Rangers ended 13 months of Celtic domination by overhauling their perennial rivals and going back to the top of the Premier League.

Nacho Novo scored twice in a 3-2 win over Hearts while Celtic were held to a 1-1 draw by Dundee.

It followed two successive wins over Celtic, the most significant coming in the League. A 2-0 victory at Ibrox gave Rangers the points in a bad-tempered game, with Celtic having Alan Thompson and Chris Sutton sent off. Ten days earlier, Rangers had beaten Celtic 2-1, also at Ibrox, in the League Cup quarter-finals.

Hearts have appointed former player John Robertson as manager following the departure of Craig Levein for Leicester City. Robertson guided Inverness Caledonian Thistle to the Premier League last season.

The national side suffered an embarrassing 4-1 defeat at home to a makeshift Swedish side in their November friendly, the first in charge for caretaker manager Tommy Burns following the resignation of Berti Vogts.

Alan Fairley

NORTHERN IRELAND

Glens on a roll

League leaders Glentoran earned some early silverware by carrying off the League Cup after beating Linfield 2-1 after extra-time in the Final.

Ironically, the winner came from Chris Morgan, who had been released by Linfield in the summer.

Johnny Speak quit as manager of bottom-of-the-table Omagh Town after they conceded 20 goals in three games. Former Institute boss Paul Kee took over but Omagh lost 8-1 at home to Linfield in his first game in charge.

Roy Kitson

Finland's No 1...Niemi

Niemi picks up accolade

FINLAND

Antti Niemi has been voted Footballer of the Year, breaking the 13-year dominance of the award by Jari Litmanen and Sami Hyypia.

The 32-year-old Southampton goalkeeper richly deserved the accolade, having shown great consistency for the national team.

MyPa beat relegated Hameenlinna 2-1 in the Cup Final, Tuomas Aho scoring the winner in added time.

Olavi Laaksonen, Finland's longest-serving national coach, has died. He was in charge for 14 years.

Pentti Hietanen

Tosh relishes second coming

International return... John Toshack

WALES

JOHN TOSHACK HAS been named as the new national team manager, in succession to Mark Hughes. It is the second spell in charge of Wales for the former Real Madrid boss, who resigned after just one friendly match at the helm in 1994.

Toshack, whose other club sides have included Real Sociedad, Deportivo La Coruna, Saint-Etienne and Besiktas, was the popular choice to succeed Hughes, and is clearly relishing the challenge of national team management.

"I've been very fortunate and privileged as a player and manager – I've been successful and picked up a lot of knowledge and experience," said the former Liverpool striker.

"But taking the national side to the European Championship finals or World Cup finals is one of the few things that I haven't been able to do. This job is a tough challenge but it excites me, and I have had equally difficult challenges in the past."

Mel Thomas

Scene of the crime...police inspect the area of Besiktas' stadium where Cihat Aktas was stabbed

Nation rocked by fan's fatal stabbing

TURKEY

THE KILLING OF A 16-year-old supporter at an overcrowded Besiktas game has served as a grim reminder that extreme violence is never far from the surface in Turkish football.

Cihat Aktas was stabbed twice with a penknife in the 10th minute of the Istanbul club's home match against Caykur Rizespor. His self-confessed assailant, Fatih Sozuer, later told police he had been angered when the teenager bumped into him. He then put the knife under his seat and watched the rest of the game, while Aktas was taken to hospital.

Outraged commentators flooded newspaper opinion columns with condemnations of the corrupt practices they believe led to Aktas's death, and parliament debated the current sorry state of the domestic game. Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan ordered that all stops be pulled out in order to end trouble inside stadiums, the Turkish federation issued a list of directives – including the reorganisation of ticket sales to prevent overcrowding and the overhauling of security measures – and Besiktas were ordered to play their next three games behind closed doors.

But the anti-violence lobby know it is an uphill struggle to end the gangland environment existing among the more fanatical supporters. Many clubs are believed to give free tickets to competing hardline groups and organise free buses to away games to boost their support. Club officials allegedly pander to the terraces to ensure re-election, while many politicians and senior media figures who associate with the game to boost their popularity are loath to upbraid useful soccer 'friends'. Some security forces are also indicted – a distraught policeman sent an anonymous e-mail after the Besiktas game telling how missiles he had confiscated were returned to fans by his superiors. Others ignore season ticket-holders squeezing through the gates with ticketless friends – reportedly how Sozuer gained entry. The resultant chaos, as too many angry, fanatical, sometimes armed fans try to cram into insufficient seats, regularly leads to fights and now a killing.

"The security forces, the federation and the media – we have all conspired to kill Cihat Aktas," said football columnist Hincal Uluc. "So what are we going to do now?"

Suna Erdem

GREECE

AEK freed from debt

AEK Athens have been saved from bankruptcy and possible relegation after a court ruling effectively wiped out most of their £100million debt.

The Athens appeals court granted AEK inclusion in a provision benefiting joint-stock companies that have previously obtained a waiver on their debts to a majority of creditors. AEK's creditors, who are also their major shareholders, had previously agreed to waive around £43m of AEK's debt – almost all the money that the club owed them.

The court ruling automatically saves AEK from paying £54m of a total £57m in tax arrears.

"This is the happiest day of my life," said AEK president and former player Demis Nikolaidis. "This opens the way for us to take out a loan, find sponsors and build a new stadium."

There was less good news for Panathinaikos, who have been told by UEFA they will need to find a new ground at which to stage future Champions League matches because their Apostolos Nikolaidis stadium is not up to standard.

Lou Economopoulos

CROATIA

Dinamo on to coach No 4

Dinamo Zagreb's crisis has continued unabated, with the 4-2 defeat at Rijeka in late November prompting the club to appoint their fourth coach of the season. Ilija Lonarevic, fresh from a spell with the Libyan national team, has taken charge for the third time following the resignation of Nenad Gracan, who had been at the helm for only 10 games. He succeeded Djuro Bago, who himself was an early replacement for Nikola Jurcevic.

Meanwhile, Dinamo player Dario Zahora has said he will quit and move to South Korea after being attacked by fans for the second time. The latest incident came after the Rijeka defeat, when a group of Dinamo ultras assaulted Zahora as he sat in his car at traffic lights in Zagreb.

Zdravko Reic

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Teenager wowing in Zagreb

The performances of Bosnian teenage striker Senijad Ibricic for Croatian side FC Zagreb have suggested he is on his way to a glittering international career. But ironically he is only in Croatia because no club in Bosnia-Herzegovina wanted him when he first went for trials. Ibricic also failed to find a berth at Monaco or Hajduk Split before being spotted by Zagreb general manager Robert Prosinecki.

Now 19, Ibricic has become a true star. Fearing he might switch allegiance to his adoptive country, the Bosnian authorities quickly called him up to their Under-21 side, for whom he has already scored three goals, two of them, ironically, against Croatia.

Zdravko Reic

MACEDONIA

Vardar look to Vujadin

National team assistant coach Vujadin Stanojkovic now also holds the reins at Vardar Skopje after Brazilian Gildo Rodriguez was relieved of his duties with the club 10 points behind leaders Rabotnicki Kometal.

Lowly Bashkimi also sacked their coach, Mensur Nedzipi, with Erkan Jusuf named as his successor.

The national team lost 2-0 to the Czech Republic in their first World Cup qualifier since the disastrous 1-0 defeat in Andorra in October.

Michel Stojmanovski

ISRAEL

Nir and Nimni save the day

The national team's first victory in Cyprus kept them level with the Republic of Ireland and France at the top of World Cup qualifying Group 4. Nir Davidovich saved a penalty with the score at 1-1, and captain Avi Nimni hit the winner five minutes from time.

Champions Maccabi Haifa are on course to retain the title after building a five-point lead with 10 rounds gone. Haifa's string of wins included a 3-0 beating of Maccabi Tel Aviv, who were then thrashed 5-1 by Bayern Munich in the Champions League to leave them at the foot of Group C.

Derek Fattal

MALTA

Sliema stay on course

Sliema Wanderers stayed firmly on course to retain the title after beating Hibernians 3-2 away. That extended their unbeaten run since the start of the season to eight games and kept them four points clear at the top. Promoted St Patrick were still without a point after losing to Msida St Joseph.

Domenico Aquilina

CYPRUS

Vukotic given the boot

National coach Momcilo Vukotic has been sacked after failing to improve the team's fortunes during his 33 months in charge. The Montenegrin was often criticised for his selections, and the pressure intensified after a 2-2 World Cup qualifying draw with the Faroe Islands in October. Vukotic's last match in charge was November's 2-1 home World Cup defeat by Israel. Cyprus have not won for 18 months since beating Malta 2-1.

Soulis Theodosiou

Oh, yes...Kezman (left) hails his goal

Belgium beaters earn beer money

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

ZVONIMIR VUKIC and Mateja Kezman's goals gave the national team a 2-0 win over Belgium in Brussels in November, keeping them top of World Cup qualifying Group 7 and raising their chances of reaching the 2006 finals. There was also positive commercial news, with the FA signing a four-year sponsorship contract with brewers Carlsberg four days later.

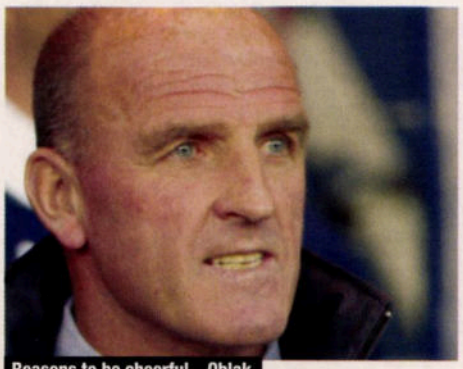
Partizan Belgrade continued to lead the League, three points clear of champions Red Star after 13 rounds. The team were unbeaten in 22 competitive games this season.

Buducnost Podgorica were facing severe sanctions after their fans stoned the team bus of visiting Red Star and then threw teargas, causing chaos in the packed stadium. They also clashed with police, and Red Star player Milan Bisevac and the club's kit-man were attacked. Twenty-five people were injured during the fighting, and the kick-off was delayed by two hours. Red Star won 3-1.

Hajduk Kula have sacked coach Miloljub Ostojic while former national Under-21 coach Vladimir Petrovic has taken charge at Vojvodina.

Vladimir Novak

New blood, new hope



Reasons to be cheerful...Oblak

SLOVENIA

OPTIMISM IS HIGH that national coach Branko Oblak can lead the team to the 2006 World Cup finals having shown adroitness in introducing new blood to an ageing side.

Oblak's latest protege is goalkeeper Samir Handanovic, who enjoyed a fine debut in the November friendly against Slovakia. The little-known 20-year-old, who has been with Udinese for two years, made a string of fine saves during the 0-0 draw. Slovenia have already shown their potential under Oblak by beating Italy 1-0 at home in October.

Defending League champions Gorica went into the winter break with a seven-point lead over Publikum.

Zdravko Reic

RUSSIA

Lokomotiv power keeps Yartsev on board

Under-pressure national coach Georgi Yartsev clung on to his job after Russia beat Estonia 4-0 in their November World Cup qualifying clash. Yartsev had been warned he would be sacked if the team failed to deliver against the Estonians, after the humiliating 7-1 defeat by Portugal in Lisbon in October.

The coach, whose team selections have come in for repeated criticism, opted to field five of the Lokomotiv side that had just secured the Russian championship. The selections paid off, with three of the goals coming from the contingent – Dmitri Sychev, Marat Izmailov and Dmitri Loskov. Sychev was paired with League top scorer Alexander Kerzhakov (Zenit St Petersburg) as Yartsev dispensed with his own favourite forward, Dmitri Bulykin of Dinamo Moscow.

The game was played in the southern city of Krasnodar because of the cold weather expected in Moscow – only the fourth time the national team had played a home game away from the capital.

Sychev also scored on the final day of the League campaign five days earlier, hitting Lokomotiv's second goal in the 2-0 win at Shinnik that saw off the challenge of defending champions CSKA Moscow.

CSKA were top with two games to go but could only draw 0-0 at home to Dinamo in the penultimate round to hand Lokomotiv the whip hand. CSKA's 4-1 win at FC Moscow on the final day proved in vain.

Victor Gusev

New ball game...Iordanescu swapped the cut and thrust of international football for an election campaign

Anghel flies off to world of politics

ROMANIA

ANGHEL IORDANESCU has quit as national team coach in favour of a career in politics after he failed to recapture the glory days of his first spell at the Romania helm. His decision came after the team could only draw 1-1 away to bottom side Armenia in their recent World Cup qualifier.

The result meant Romania lost top spot in Group 1 to Holland and highlighted the limitations of the current team in comparison to the side Iordanescu led to the World Cup quarter-finals at USA 94 during his first period in charge.

The 54-year-old immediately turned his attentions to his election campaign to become a senator for the ruling Democratic Social Party, and his popularity suggests he may well go a long way in politics.

Iordanescu had retaken the national team reins in January 2002 but by then the country's so-called 'golden generation', including Gheorghe Hagi, Gheorghe Popescu and Dan Petrescu, had retired. Without such high-quality players, the coach failed to reaffirm his reputation as a good team builder, with Romania failing to qualify for the Euro 2004 finals.

Victor Piturca, who was sacked following a bitter dispute with Hagi and Popescu just after leading Romania to their last major finals, Euro 2000, is favourite to succeed Iordanescu, since the other likely candidates – Hagi, Mircea Lucescu and Laszlo Boloni – are all on well-paid contracts at their respective club sides: Galatasaray, Shakhtar Donetsk and Rennes.

Radu Timofte

CZECH REPUBLIC

FA official quits over 'fixing' tape

Milan Brabec, the FA's deputy chairman, has resigned after a newspaper published the transcript of a phone call which appeared to implicate him in attempted match-fixing. Brabec, who has continued to protest his innocence despite his resignation, is the highest-ranking official so far to be implicated in Czech football's ongoing corruption scandal.

The deputy chairman, who also headed the FA's refereeing committee, quit after *Sport* published the transcript of a conversation between him and then Viktoria Zizkov sporting manager Ivan Hornik. In it, Brabec appears to offer Hornik match officials that would be favourable to his team.

Meanwhile, the FA's own corruption investigation has led to the punishment of two more teams. Top-flight SFC Opava have been docked six points and fined £11,300, while Second Division Vitkovice received a £6,800 fine and had nine points deducted. The sanctions follow similar measures against Synot and Zizkov. To date, 12 referees and two delegates have also been punished.

The national team rose to joint second place in their World Cup qualifying group after a nervy 2-0 win away to Macedonia in November. Despite dominating, the Czech Republic had to wait until the 87th minute for a breakthrough, courtesy of substitute Vratislav Lokvenc. The Czechs' other giant striker, Jan Koller, doubled the lead in the final minute.

Sam Beckwith

BULGARIA

Lovech land Shum

Litex Lovech pulled off a major surprise when securing the services of top Israeli coach Itzhak Shum to replace the sacked Stoicho Mladenov. Shum, who led Panathinaikos to the Greek Double last season, has signed an 18-month contract.

The Israeli left Pana in October after a fall-out with team manager Velimir Zajec. Mladenov, a former Bulgarian national team coach, was fired with Lovech trailing leaders CSKA Sofia in the League and out of the UEFA Cup and domestic Cup.

Yordan Samokovliyski quit promoted Pirin and Italian co-coaches Salvatore Bianchetti and Claudio Maselli were fired by Naftex after both clubs suffered a string of poor results.

A virtually full-strength national team were held to a 0-0 draw away to Azerbaijan, whose Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Torres gave starting places to no fewer than three young debutants.

Michael Bowesfield

HUNGARY

Fradi end first half on top

Defending champions Ferencvaros went into the winter break three points clear at the top of the table after an emphatic 5-1 win away to third-placed Zalaegerszeg on the final matchday. Fradi's closest challengers, Debrecen, could only draw 1-1 at Pecs.

Peterjon Cresswell

MOLDOVA

Club president chases referee in Jeep

Second Division Roso Floreni's home game against Politechnica Chisinau was abandoned after the Roso president drove his Jeep on to the pitch in pursuit of the match officials because he was unhappy with a refereeing decision. Referee Vitalie Onica had awarded Politechnica a penalty after 15 minutes, which they converted to take a 2-1 lead. Moments later the president, Mihai Macovei, started up his vehicle and began a high-speed chase.

Onica managed to avoid being hit and Macovei drove out of the stadium but returned shortly afterwards. However, the only police officer on duty had already called for back-up to prevent any further incident.

The game was abandoned and later awarded as a 3-0 win to Politechnica. Macovei was banned from attending matches until the end of the season and fined £1,100.

"It was a miracle nobody died," said Politechnica head coach Ion Caras after the game.

Miron Goihman

ARMENIA

Pyunik ease to fourth straight title

Pyunik Yerevan won the championship for the fourth year running, finishing 16 points clear of nearest challengers Mika Ashtarak. Meanwhile, the national team gained their first point of the World Cup qualifying campaign after holding group leaders Romania to a 1-1 draw in Yerevan.

Vladimir Kalinkovich

SLOVAKIA

Moravcik takes Ruzomberok reins

Former Celtic midfielder Lubomir Moravcik replaced Ivan Hucko as Ruzomberok coach two games before the winter break.

Moravcik, the club's president, agreed to take on the new responsibilities after Hucko was dismissed because the team were deemed to be performing disappointingly. This was despite Ruzomberok lying fourth in the table after 16 rounds, four points behind surprise leaders Dubnica.

It was the top flight's fourth coaching change this season after those at Spartak Trnava, Inter Bratislava, and Banska Bystrica

Pavol Stracansky

Dudek steals show

POLAND

JERZY DUDEK was the star performer during Poland's 0-0 friendly draw in France in November, pulling off a string of brilliant saves. Coach Pawel Janas acknowledged the keeper's contribution, saying: "It is not so easy to obtain such a result against so strong a team. France played better than us, but we have Dudek."

Janas, meanwhile, has met Anthony McFarlane, agent of Crystal Palace's leading scorer, Andy Johnson, after the striker announced that he would like to play for Poland. Johnson, who would qualify to do this because his grandfather was a Pole, scored nine goals in his first 14 Premiership games this season to stand second in the League scoring chart behind Thierry Henry. "I am determined to complete all the documents Andy needs to receive Polish citizenship," said McFarlane.

Defending champions Wisla Krakow have continued to show their dominance, going into the winter break eight points clear at the top of the League and as the only unbeaten side. Despite this, the tenure of coach Henryk Kasperczak has looked shaky after Wisla lost to Dinamo Tbilisi in the UEFA Cup, missing out on the potentially lucrative group stage.

Wisla forward Tomasz Frankowski set a record by scoring 19 goals in the first half of the season, the highest tally at the winter break.

Dariusz Kurowski

They shall not pass...Dudek blocks another French effort on goal

Turkey roasted

UKRAINE

THE NATIONAL TEAM'S comprehensive 3-0 win in Turkey in November put them five points clear in their World Cup qualifying group and came despite the eve-of-game expulsion of three players for breaking a curfew.

Vyacheslav Checher and Alexander Zotov (Metalurh Donetsk) and Serhii Zakarlyuka (Illichivets) were all immediately kicked out of the squad after returning to the training camp after midnight, but the expulsions did not have an adverse effect on the team's performance in Istanbul.

Riding high...Shevchenko

Two superb goals from captain Andrii Shevchenko, already on a high following the birth of his son Jordan, and another from Oleh Husiev brought Oleh Blokhin's side an important victory.

"We studied Turkey and planned our counter-measures well," said the coach, while Shevchenko commented: "Ukraine showed real team spirit. We have a very positive atmosphere in the squad."

Oleg Zadernovsky

Tired Brazil fall at altitude

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

A COMBINATION OF FATIGUE, high altitude and a well-organised Ecuador proved too much for Brazil as they lost their unbeaten record and top spot in South America's World Cup qualifying group. Edison Mendez's well-struck shot gave Ecuador a 1-0 win in Quito and allowed Argentina, 3-2 home victors over Venezuela, to take over at the head of the table.

Home wins for Peru against Chile, Uruguay over Paraguay and Colombia against Bolivia kept the group as close as ever, with the seven countries lying between third and ninth place separated by just three points. The top four qualify automatically, with the fifth-placed nation entering a play-off.

The latest round, the 11th out of 18 in the marathon competition, was played on November 17, which had been allocated by FIFA for friendlies rather than competitive internationals. So no free weekend for the Europe-based players before the games. Instead, they had to get up before dawn on Monday morning to fly to South America, train on Tuesday, play on Wednesday and return to Europe to play again at the weekend. Where will it all end? Brazil suffered most since the travel fatigue was compounded by having to face Ecuador at 9,000 feet above sea level – a truly absurd set of circumstances.

The Brazilian media were having none of it, of course, and accused coach Carlos Alberto Parreira of looking for excuses. But then the media seriously underestimate teams such as Ecuador, openly using terms such as "silly" and "little team" to describe them and believing they have no right to walk the same turf as their beloved five-times world champions.

In fact, Brazil were unlucky to lose. They created the better chances, Ronaldinho hit the bar in the second half, and they might even have won had Ronaldo not selfishly insisted on staying on for 90 minutes despite, on his own admission, being one of the worst affected by the thin air.

Over in Buenos Aires, a Juan Roman Riquelme free-kick and a Javier Saviola strike gave Argentina their 14th win in as many games against Venezuela. Jose Manuel Rey set the hosts on their way with an own goal. But Venezuela fought bravely, equalising with a superb goal by Ruberth Moran – his fifth in the last three qualifiers – and pulling back to 3-2 when Leonel Vielma drove in a free-kick.

Uruguay captain Paolo Montero headed a late winner against Paraguay in Montevideo. You can almost hear the bones crunch as he goes in for the tackle but, like him or loathe him, the return of the 33-year-old Juventus hard man, two years after he announced his international retirement, is making a huge difference. Uruguay, who have the worst defensive record in the group, have not conceded a goal in the two games in which Montero has played.

Bayern Munich's 20-year-old forward Paulo Guerrero scored his first goal for Peru as they beat Chile 2-1 in Lima after Jefferson Farfan opened the scoring. Sebastian Gonzalez replied in added time.

Colombia stayed in the pack by beating Bolivia, now three points adrift at the bottom. PSG defender Mario Yepes headed the only goal.

Brian Homewood

Not this time...Edwin Tenorio of Ecuador gets the better of Brazil's Kaka during their World Cup qualifier in Quito

Tight squeeze...Guillermo Barros Schelotto finds his way blocked by Luis Gonzalez in the River Plate-Boca derby

Boca hit the buffers

ARGENTINA

BOCA JUNIORS FIRED coach Miguel Brindisi after the team went nine matches without a win and almost 500 minutes without a goal, the worst run in their history as a professional club.

As a result, the 2003 opening champions have long since been out of the running for this season's opening title and instead have been concentrating on winning the Sudamericana Cup, a competition in which they had previously shown little interest.

Youth team coach and former player Jorge Benitez has taken over as caretaker for the rest of the season, but not surprisingly there has been no improvement, given the hand he has been dealt.

Boca's main problem has been that they have too many older players who lost form at the same time. Now, a big clear-out is on the cards. There had also been strong rumours – denied by the players – of rifts between the younger and older squad members. Also, Brindisi's highly successful predecessor, Carlos Bianchi, was always going to be a hard act to follow, and Brindisi certainly did not hit it off with the fans nor entirely with the players.

President Mauricio Macri said Boca were in no hurry to find a permanent coach but revealed the new man would be a foreigner and has admitted making contact with former Ajax and Barcelona boss Louis Van Gaal, who reportedly is interested.

Boca's fall from grace has coincided with the most exciting championship race in years, with only four points separating the top six with three games to play. Like Boca, River Plate also had a poor spell in the middle of the campaign, but turned the corner with a 2-0 home win over their arch-rivals at the start of November. After 16 rounds they lay third, a point behind leaders Newell's Old Boys and below Estudiantes on goal difference. River have been boosted by young attacking duo Gaston Fernandez, 21, who was on loan to Racing Club last season, and 20-year-old Maximiliano Lopez. But the real improvement has come in defence.

Leonardo Astrada, River's former captain and now, at 34, the youngest coach in the tournament, complained earlier in the campaign that while his side's results were good and they were top, they were not playing well. Now he has changed his tune, saying: "At this point of the tournament the most important thing is to gain the three points, whether we play well or not."

Although Newell's led the way with three games to go and have a revitalised Ariel Ortega among their ranks, their problem has been scoring goals. They had hit just 17 in 16 games but had opted to keep in reserve much-travelled Brazilian Mario Jardel, who was a leading scorer with several European clubs.

Estudiantes, like Newell's, boast a lot of promising young players, with midfielders Marcelo Carrusca, 21, and 19-year-old Jose Sosa already catching the eye of European scouts.

Eric Weil

ROUND-UP

CHILE

● Universidad de Chile risk extinction after battling against bankruptcy proceedings for months. The Labour Ministry recently closed the club's offices because they have not paid their staff, while the players are also owed salaries. The latter issue prompted the FA to dock Universidad three points from their closing championship tally. The university is now seriously considering withdrawing its name from the club.

Colo Colo, another of the country's big three clubs, also face bankruptcy closure. The club's assets will be auctioned off in January and a company formed with the offer of a million shares. Seven other First Division clubs and nine Second Division clubs are also threatened with closure for not paying salaries.

URUGUAY

● Fenix keeper Ignacio De Leon saved three penalties during a closing championship game against Nacional – but Fenix still lost 2-1.

ECUADOR

● Argentinian Jorge Habegger has become Barcelona's sixth coach this season after Juan Urquiza resigned because the players refused to train.

PERU

● The FA has performed a U-turn by announcing there will be relegation this season, having earlier said there would be none because the League is expanding from 14 to 16 teams. Financially-troubled bottom club Estudiantes de Medicina have now withdrawn, while next-to-bottom Deportivo Wanka caused uproar when they moved their home games from Huancay (2,300 metres above sea level) to Cerro de Pasco, 300km away and which stands at 4,300m.

BOLIVIA

● Oriente Petrolero keeper Leo Fernandez escaped injury when shot at in his car in an incident thought to be connected with a fight he and some team-mates had with a group of Oriente hooligan fans.

Eric Weil

Targeted...Leo Fernandez (left)

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Honduras blow it

THREE YEARS AGO, Honduras were tipped for great things. They finished third at the 2001 Copa America in Colombia, beating Brazil on the way, were voted FIFA's team of the year and were comfortably placed in the 2002 World Cup qualifying competition.

Since then, it has all gone downhill. Their Korea/Japan World Cup dreams went up in smoke after they lost their last two games, while their attempt to build a new team under Bora Milutinovic for 2006 collapsed when the much-travelled Serb resigned in June. Milutinovic, reportedly earning £22,000 a month, was fed up after everyone from government ministers to the Catholic Church criticised his salary.

Now, Honduras will have to wait until the 2010 qualifiers before thinking of the World Cup again. A goalless draw at home to Costa Rica meant they finished only third in Group 2 of the CONCACAF second qualifying stage for Germany 2006, with their opponents and group winners Guatemala going through to the final round instead.

Honduras began the group superbly, beating Costa Rica 5-2 away, but then failed to win any of their next four games, two each against Canada and Guatemala. That left them needing to beat Costa Rica at home to go through.

The Hondurans tried everything in the run-up. Coach Raul Martinez was fired after only seven matches and old favourite Jose de la Paz Herrera, a midfielder when Honduras made their only World Cup appearance in 1982, returned for a third stint in the hot seat. They also moved the game to the 18,000-capacity Francisco Morazan in San Pedro Sula, where the crowd is closer to the pitch than at other venues, and is named after a Honduran national hero shot dead in 1842 – in Costa Rica. But with Cagliari striker David Suazo out injured, Honduras rarely looked like breaking through.

Panama and Trinidad & Tobago completed the line-up for next year's final round, joining Guatemala, the United States and Mexico, who had already qualified.

Panama, along with Guatemala, were the surprise qualifiers for the final stage, having never come anywhere close to reaching a World Cup before. They are coached by Colombian Jose Hernandez and have much-travelled 37-year-old Julio Dely Valdes spearheading the attack. Goals in the first 22 minutes from Austria-based striker Roberto Brown, Brazil-based defender Felipe Baloy and striker Luis Garces gave them a 3-0 win over El Salvador in Group 1 as they overtook Jamaica, who were held 1-1 at home by the United States.

The Reggae Boyz, under Brazil's 1990 World Cup manager Sebastiao Lazaroni and despite (or perhaps because of) having half their squad made up of Britain-based professionals, are now a shadow of the team that qualified for France 98. Poor finishing let them down, especially at the once impregnable National stadium they like to call the Office, where they failed to win a group game.

Trinidad & Tobago followed Mexico through from Group 3, which also included the Caribbean islanders from St Kitts & Nevis and St Vincent & The Grenadines. The Mexicans found it embarrassingly easy, winning all six games and scoring 27 goals to add to the 18 they thumped past Dominica in a two-leg preliminary round tie.

Brian Homewood

Return in vain...Jose de la Paz Herrera

Bad day at The Office...Ed Johnson, of the United States, outjumps Jamaica's Ian Goodison during the 1-1 draw

Stand-off over high noon start

MEXICO

VERACRUZ, ALREADY QUALIFIED for the opening championship play-offs, opted to forfeit their final group game after a row with the federation over kick-off times.

For the first time in the history of the 'short league' system, all eight qualifiers for the play-offs were known before the final round of matches. Since nothing was riding on the games Veracruz wanted to play their final match, at home to Jaguares, on the Saturday evening rather than in the 40°C heat of the scheduled Sunday noon start time for the round as a whole.

However, the federation stubbornly refused to allow the switch, because the latter time had been agreed to satisfy TV channel Televisa and their affiliates in the USA and Central America.

In response, Veracruz simply did not show up and the game was awarded 2-0 to Jaguares. Veracruz still won Group 3, from which Pachuca and Monterrey also qualified. The other qualifiers were Group 1 winners Atlante, Group 2 winners Toluca, plus Pumas UNAM, Atlas and Guadalajara.

Cruz Azul, one of Mexico's biggest clubs, finished bottom of Group 2 with only 16 points from 17 games. They now face a battle against relegation, which is determined by average points gained over recent campaigns.

Tigres' failure to reach the last eight prompted coach Nery Pumpido to resign.

Carlos Ramirez

Eye on the ball...Esperance's Issam Jomaa robs Musa Aliyu of Enyimba during the semi-final second leg in Tunis

Esperance fail again

THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE jinx on Esperance continued as they failed once again to get their hands on the trophy. This time round the Tunisian champions failed to make it through the semi-finals, going out to defending champions Enyimba of Nigeria on penalties after a 2-2 aggregate draw.

Esperance, totally dominant in their domestic championship and disinterested in pan-Arab tournaments, have made no secret that Africa's top club prize remains their Holy Grail. But although they have started favourites in every edition of the Champions League since its inception in 1997 they have failed at every attempt.

Notable misses included the 1999 tournament, when losing on penalties in the Final at home to Raja Casablanca of Morocco, and they also missed out in the deciding game the following year, losing to Ghana's Hearts of Oak. In 2001, Esperance lost on away goals in the semi-finals and also made the final four last year but were again upstaged by seemingly weaker opponents.

The Tunisians had started the 2004 edition as they always do – looking finally capable of breaking their duck. They eased through their qualifying round, then won their first three games in the group stage to virtually make sure of a semi-final place.

Their fourth group match was a 3-0 defeat at USM Alger, not even a hiccup in terms of the standings but enough motivation for the club to fire Argentinian coach Luis Oscar Fullone after just nine months in charge.

His replacement was Swiss Claude Andrey, previously national coach of Congo. But the eccentric whims of Esperance president Slim Chiboub, a new FIFA executive committee member, continue to confound and never allow for any continuity.

Esperance did manage a creditable 1-1 draw away to Enyimba in the semi-final first leg. The Tunisians led after a brilliant volley from Joahar Mnari midway through the second half, though they conceded an injury-time equaliser to Enyimba substitute Eric Fasindo. Esperance also went ahead in the return, Ali Zitouni scoring after the team had missed a series of chances. The hosts should have added a few more goals but then drifted out of the game and allowed Enyimba's David Tyavkase to equalise and even the aggregate score.

Both sides squandered decisive kicks in the penalty shoot-out but the deadlock was broken when Zied Bhairi blasted his effort wildly over and Enyimba went through 6-5.

Tunisian rivals Etoile Sahel did reach the Final, for the first time, after beating Senegal's Jeanne d'Arc 4-2 on aggregate, despite firing coach Mrad Mahjoubi a few days before the first leg, and replacing him with Abdelmajid Chetali. Veteran Zoubeir Baya was the star of the second leg in Sousse, setting up all Etoile's goals in a 3-0 win.

It would add much salt to Esperance's wounds were their long-time domestic rivals able to beat them to the continental club prize.

Mark Gleeson

ROUND-UP

NORTH AFRICA

● EGYPTIAN champions Zamalek lost their 52-match unbeaten League run when losing 4-2 to Al Ahli in the Cairo derby. Another League defeat a week later led to the dismissal of coach Dragan Stepanovic, who was replaced by Brazilian Carlos Roberto Cabral. Hassan Shehata was appointed national team coach in succession to Marco Tardelli.

● TUNISIA'S Club Africain fired French coach Henri Stambouli after just six matches of the new season and despite an unbeaten start. The Frenchman was in charge of Mali earlier this year, leading them to the semi-finals of the Tunisia-hosted tournament. Club Africain's new boss is Nabil Maaloul. CS Sfaxien beat Esperance 2-0 in the Tunisian Cup Final, scoring both goals in extra-time.

CENTRAL AFRICA

● Mangasport won the League title in GABON, but missed out on the Double after losing 3-2 to FC 105 Libreville in the Cup Final. FC 105 then lost 6-5 on penalties after a 3-3 aggregate draw to Racing Bamboutous of CAMEROON in the Final of the inaugural edition of the regional UNIFAC Cup.

EAST AFRICA

Twahir Muhiddin has been named as coach of KENYA, replacing Jacob Mulee, who quit in October after a 2-1 World Cup defeat away to Botswana.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

● Bruce Grobbelaar, dismissed after five matches at Manning Rangers at the start of the season, quickly found a new job, taking over at fellow SOUTH AFRICAN top-flight side Umtata Bush Bucks.

● Ferroviario Nampula became the first club from northern MOZAMBIQUE to win the championship, clinching the title with one match to spare.

● Sonangol Namibie won the ANGOLAN Cup with a 2-0 triumph over InterClube.

WEST AFRICA

● AS Douanes won the SENEGALESE Cup for the third year running, beating League champions Diaraf Dakar 2-1 in the Final.

● West African sports ministers have decided to resurrect the AMILCAR CABRAL CUP, a long-standing regional tournament last played three years ago. Countries eligible to participate are the Cape Verde Islands, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Senegal won the last event, hosted by Mali.

Mark Gleeson

Top finish...Songnam keeper Yang Young-min is powerless to prevent Mohammed Noor (left) scoring as Al Ittihad march towards Champions League victory

Al Ittihad the comeback kings

ASIAN CLUB COMPETITION FINALS

A WEEK AFTER coach Tomislav Ivic was sacked following a 3-1 defeat in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia's Al Ittihad staged a sensational fightback to claim the Asian Champions League title. A 5-0 win in South Korea over former Asian champions Songnam Ilhwa gave them a remarkable 6-3 aggregate victory.

Goals from Denis Laktionov, Kim Do-hoon and Jang Hak-young had given Songnam a first-leg lead that seemed unassailable, with Redha Tukar scoring what appeared to be nothing more than a consolation. But by half-time in the second leg the aggregate score was level, Tukar scoring in the 27th minute and former Saudi international Hamza Idris netting in time added on.

Al Ittihad led on aggregate when Mohammed Noor scored 11 minutes after the restart and, with 12 minutes to go, the Saudi striker made it 4-0 before Manaf Abushgeer hammered the final nail in the coffin five minutes into injury-time.

The rout was as spectacular as it was unprecedented and it meant the trophy stayed in west Asia since United Arab Emirates side Al Ain claimed the inaugural championship last year.

"After the first game, only crazy people thought that we would win the return, let alone the trophy," said coach Dragan Talajic, who succeeded Ivic. "I guess people must now say I am crazy because I really did think we could do something special here.

"I promised you would see 11 tigers on the pitch today, and that is what they were. They showed what great players they are."

Al Ittihad also beat South Korean opposition, Chunnam Dragons, when winning their only other major continental silverware, the 1999 Cup-winners Cup. Their win over Songnam is the first success for a Saudi club in Asia's premier club tournament since 2000, when Al Hilal won the Asian Club Championship, the Champions League's predecessor. It will give the Saudi game a boost after the national team's failure to progress beyond the group stage of the Asian Cup.

Al Jaish claimed the inaugural AFC Cup with an away goals win over fellow Syrians Al Wahda. Both games were played in the Al Abbassiyyin stadium in Damascus but, with the first leg designated Al Wahda's home tie, Al Jaish's 3-2 victory put them in the driving seat. The army club got their hands on the trophy despite a 1-0 defeat in the second leg.

Michael Church

Unpaid Shenzhen earn title win

CHINA

SHENZHEN JIANLIBAO won the inaugural, scandal-ridden Super League after beating defending national champions Shanghai Shenhua 3-1 in the third from final round.

Jubilation at the success, which came despite the players having gone without wages for seven months, was diluted by news that coach Zhu Guanghu planned to stand down. The team are also expected to break up, with ex-Everton defender Li Weifeng expected to join Fiorentina, and Zheng Zhi set for a trial with Hertha Berlin.

In fact, the whole future of the club is in question. A Beijing investment company has bought a controlling interest in the Jianlibao soft drinks manufacturer that owns the club but has not indicated whether it will retain them.

"After we won the championship people told me: 'You don't look very happy,'" said Zhu. "How can I be? The players have achieved what we required them to do but we haven't done what they expected of us."

Earlier in the season Shenzhen's players boycotted training in protest at not having been paid. Other clubs have also suffered as a result of financial mismanagement, while the League campaign has been plagued by accusations of match-fixing and illegal betting.

Michael Church

ROUND-UP

ASIA

Twice Asian club champions Suwon Bluewings clinched the Second Stage in the SOUTH KOREAN League, setting up a clash against First Stage winners Pohang Steelers for the overall title.

Former Argentinian international Gabriel Calderon has been named head coach of SAUDI ARABIA, taking over from Nasser Al-Johar, caretaker since the sacking of Gerard Van der Lem in July.

UZBEKISTAN captain Mirdjalal Kasimov has returned to his homeland after the expiry of his contract with Russian side Alaniya Vladikavkaz. The 34-year-old midfielder is now with Mashal Muborak.

In INDIA, East Bengal won the Calcutta Super Division League crown for the third time in a row. Their 3-0 victory over Mohammedan Sporting in the penultimate game gave them an unassailable lead.

Michael Church & Azam Mahmood

OCEANIA

Some flesh has, at last, been put on the bones of AUSTRALIA'S new National League, scheduled to start in August next year. The clubs making up what will formally be known as the Hyundai A League are Adelaide United, Auckland Kingz, Central Coast Mariners (from Gosford), Melbourne Victory, Newcastle United, Perth Glory, Queensland Lions (Brisbane) and Sydney FC. The teams will face each other three times during the regular season, with the top four going into a play-off series, scheduled for February 2006.

A 3-1 home defeat by Auckland City shattered the unbeaten record of NEW ZEALAND League leaders Waitakere United and enabled City to close the gap to two points.

Lepea, the SAMOAN champions, have been suspended indefinitely for unspecified regulation breaches, ruling them out of the Champion of Champions Series.

Paul Moon

Guido guides Reds home

JAPAN

URAWA REDS WON the J.League's Second Stage with two games to spare to set up a showdown against First Stage winners Yokohama F Marinos in the championship play-off.

The Saitama side clinched the title despite losing 2-1 at home to Nagoya Grampus Eight, only their second defeat of the stage. But the fact closest rivals Gamba Osaka also lost 2-0 at home to Marinos put the issue beyond doubt.

The stage win has made it a fantastic first year in management for Guido Buchwald. The hands-on style of the German, himself a former Reds player, produced a highly-motivated team who clearly enjoyed their football. "We played beautiful football for the best supporters in the J.League," said Buchwald. "I'm proud of this team."

Reds' success means the first play-off in three years, since Jubilo Iwata and Marinos won both stages in the past two seasons, thus taking the championship outright. It will also be the last play-off. The two-stage system is being shelved next year for a single campaign, with the First Division being expanded from 16 teams to 18. The newcomers are Division Two champions Kawasaki Frontale and runners-up Omiya Ardija, who like Reds are from Saitama.

Mike Plastow & Michi Ishijima

Ups and downs of coaching...Guido Buchwald is hurled aloft by his Urawa Reds players after their Second Stage triumph

China out despite 7-0 win

ASIAN WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

CHINESE FOOTBALL, already rocked by match-fixing scandals and corruption allegations at home, must now do more serious soul-searching after the national team's painful elimination from the World Cup, which cost coach Arie Haan his job.

A 7-0 thrashing of Hong Kong in the final first stage group qualifier was not enough to put the Chinese through since Kuwait hammered Malaysia 6-1 on the same day to win Group 4 on most goals scored. The two teams went into the final round level on points and head-to-head record, but Kuwait had a better goals record of 9-1 against China's 7-1.

"I'm empty inside," said Dutchman Haan, who led China to the Asian Cup Final in August, where they lost 3-1 to Japan. "I feel sad for the players. You can't come closer than this."

With no competitive international football on the schedule for two years – when the qualifiers for the 2007 Asian Cup begin – there is little to entice a top-class coach to the country.

The other Asian countries that reached the last World Cup all made it through to the final qualifying stage for Germany 2006. South Korea overcame the Maldives 2-0, though they have lost striker Ahn Jung-hwan to a serious ankle injury. Japan and Saudi Arabia, already qualified before the final round, both finished with six wins out of six after beating Singapore 1-0 and Sri Lanka 3-0 respectively.

The other qualifiers are Iran, Uzbekistan, North Korea and Bahrain. Iran thrashed Laos 7-0 to confirm their place, with 35-year-old former Bayern Munich and Hertha Berlin striker Ali Daei scoring four to take his international tally past the 100 mark.

Michael Church

Distraught...China striker Hao Haidong

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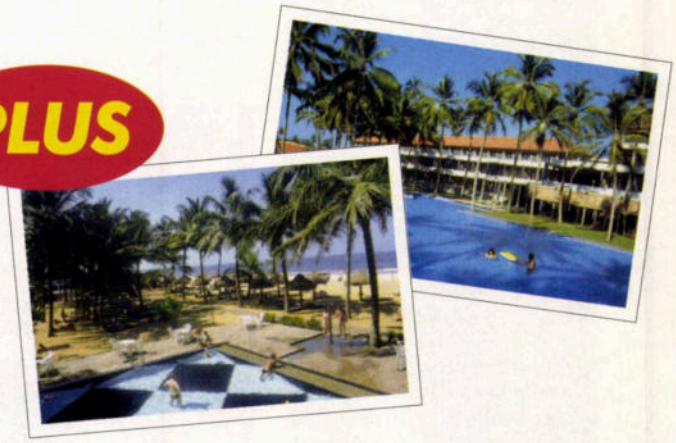

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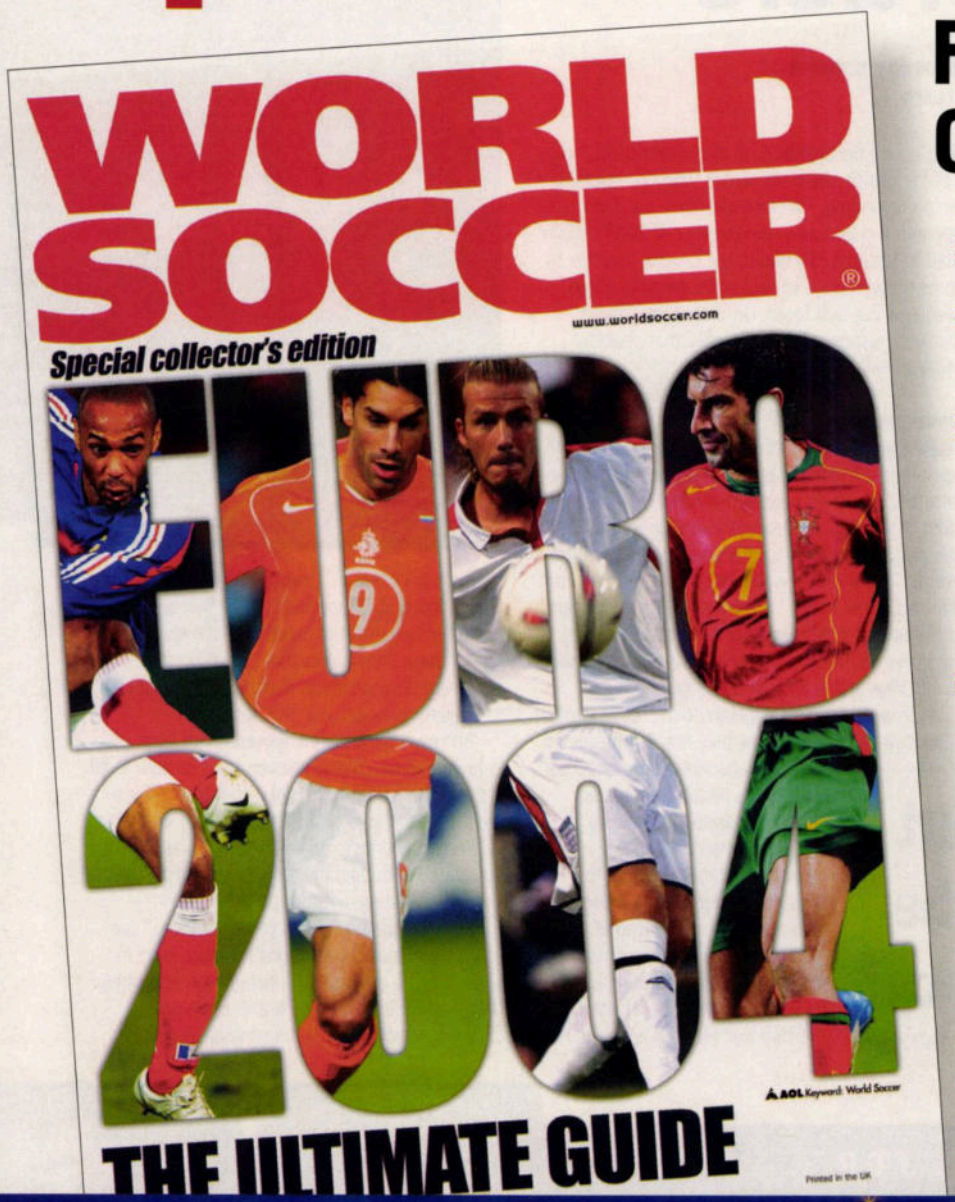

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Balloons and banning orders

Howard Johnson reports on Sheffield Wednesday's novel approach to dealing with peaceful fan protests

BLACK BALLOONS SEEM inoffensive enough. But it seems they act as the proverbial red rag to a bull where Sheffield Wednesday chairman Dave Allen is concerned.

Towards the end of last season a number of Wednesday fans decided they had had enough of the soap opera their club had become. Just five years ago, the Owls were a top-division club. Now they are languishing in League One (the third level of English football), are £27million in debt and their turnover has fallen by some £2m in the past two years.

This performance clearly worried a number of Wednesday fans. To vent their frustration a group of them, led by long-standing supporters Darryl Keys and Guy Grundy, decided to let off a bunch of black balloons to signify the club's demise and their discontent with the board at three home games towards the end of last season.

"I'd already been to see the previous chairman with a detailed list of revenue-generating ideas that I thought could really start to help Wednesday out of their predicament, and was told that the club didn't have the resources to implement them," says Keys, a former merchant banker who once worked in sports funding. "When Dave Allen was then appointed chairman in the summer of 2003 I again tried to set up a meeting to try to work together to come up with ways to help solve the undoubted problems the club faced. Unfortunately I didn't receive a response." Keys decided that peaceful protest was the only answer.

Dialogue demanded

Leaflets were also distributed demanding a more open level of dialogue between the board and the fans, and expressing concern about the financial state of the club. According to another long-standing fan, Andrew Crookes, who witnessed the events, "the protests were entirely peaceful and not directed at the team". However, this manifestation of discontent was deemed unacceptable by Allen, who prior to the start of the current season decided to ban Keys and Grundy from the ground.

"He was within his rights to do so," Keys admits. "The club can ban anybody they like. But it seemed to me an absolute abuse of power that utterly peaceful protesters should be treated in this way."

Alan Roberts, the club's operations manager, wrote to Keys after letters were sent to the club asking for some kind of explanation for this Draconian measure. Roberts, pointing out that he was responding "on behalf of the club and Mr David Allen in his capacity as chairman", wrote: "A combination of factors led to the imposition of the ban on you attending any event or function at the club." The first of these factors was that "the protests encouraged negativity at matches towards the club, its players, management and board."

Blimey. If bans were imposed on all fans following these criteria you wouldn't be able to fill a single football ground in the country. Isn't it a fan's right to moan at their team if they see fit?

The second factor was that the protests were associated with "defamatory comments posted on the website www.owlstalk.co.uk".

Keys completely refutes this allegation. "I've asked on numerous occasions for Dave Allen to show me one example of a defamatory statement that I've made. To date he hasn't done so."

Now, nobody likes folk saying nasty things

'We're talking about nothing less than the erosion of democracy'

Banished Wednesday fan Darryl Keys

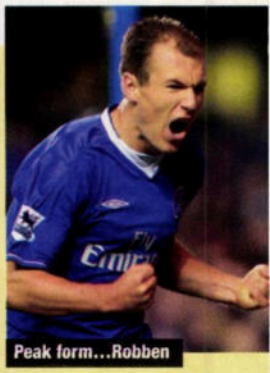
Barred...Keys and Grundy are not welcome at Hillsborough

IT'S ALL GONE WRONG FOR...

EL HADJI DIOUF

The Senegalese star of the 2002 World Cup looked perfect for a Sam Allardyce re-tune when he headed down the road from world-renowned Anfield to the homely Reebok. It seemed as if Big Sam was weaving his usual magic and getting the best out of the striker until, first, there were accusations of spitting at a Middlesbrough fan and then the undeniable spittle assault on Portsmouth defender Arjan De Zeeuw, which was seen by everyone on the telly. A three-match ban was handed down by the FA, and Bolton hit the forward with a £50,000 fine. Diouf was immediately full of remorse, saying: "I have let down my manager, Sam Allardyce, and team-mates."

Remorseful...Diouf



Peak form...Robben

about them. But no chairman in history can ever have taken on a football club thinking they'd be serenaded with chocolates and flowers. Surely you've got to be big enough to take that one on the chin.

Keys has had to take something even bigger on the chin, though. Following the ban, his picture was circulated around the turnstiles at Hillsborough before one match, along with that of Grundy.

Keys claims the club have broken the terms of the Data Protection Act by circulating his picture like this, but insists he has no intention of pursuing a civil claim against the club he loves.

Allen may genuinely think he's doing a good job. Some Wednesday fans might think he is too. Others, however, clearly think he's making a pig's ear of it. But that's almost incidental. The issue here is that if fans get banned from watching their favourite team because they think the chairman's a failure and let it be known in a totally peaceable manner, then where on earth is our game heading?

Roberts claimed in his letter to Keys that "a lively debate is always to be encouraged". But it seems that those black balloons Keys let free were way too lively for Wednesday.

"I've written to every director twice asking for guidance about the defamation, but haven't received a response," says Keys. "What we're talking about here is nothing less than the erosion of democracy and our right to free speech."

Keys, who used to regularly do the 300-mile round trip from his Chelmsford home to watch his team, is now no longer welcome at the club. He registered his daughter as a Junior Owl on the day she was born. Wonder if she'll be banned as well when Wednesday find out who her old man is?

IT'S ALL GONE RIGHT FOR...

ARJEN ROBBEN

With his ridiculous widow's peak the Dutchman looks 40 years old. But at the age of 20 the Chelsea striker already looks the finished article. He's dynamic, strong, fast as a shark over 100 metres and is blessed with two mind-bogglingly speedy feet. He came into a Chelsea side struggling to score goals and acted as the catalyst to inspire an absolute avalanche of strikes from the boys in blue. And how Sir Alex Ferguson must enjoy watching the boy. He thought he had him in the bag for Manchester United until PSV got the hump over United's offer for the player. Robben ended up in London for what already looks like a bargain £12million.

MEDIA WATCH

Face to face...Mandaric and Redknapp

Harry Redknapp v Milan Mandaric

"The practical reality of a football club was actually being seen in Portsmouth, Redknapp apparently resigning to recharge his batteries, neither he nor the chairman and owner Milan Mandaric having a bad word to say about each other. What that probably means is that Redknapp, upset at Mandaric disturbing the dynamic of the club by bringing in an executive director in Velimir Zajec, had agreed a pay-off and didn't want to say too much until the cheque had cleared."
A cynical Ian Ridley has his say in *The Observer*

"Milan Mandaric has said that Velimir Zajec is not a contender for the vacant manager's job at Portsmouth, and the chairman is unlikely to change his mind after the team sent out by the executive director last night was thoroughly beaten by lower-division opponents. The Croat has switched the formation of his team as though fiddling with Subbuteo players during his two matches in caretaker charge and he or the next permanent manager will not have the Carling Cup to worry about any more this season."
The Times' Bill Edgar casts a jaundiced eye over Pompey's post-Harry future

"The panto season is nearly upon us, but it arrived a few weeks earlier than planned in Portsmouth yesterday – oh yes it did! Harry, making a comeback less than a week after announcing his retirement, arrived feeling Grumpy. The seeds of doubt about his honesty and integrity had been inadvertently sown by that Pompey giant, Milan. As for Harry, rumour has it that his next stage appearance could be at a Midlands venue. Since leaving the South Coast, Redknapp seems to have spent most of his time being chased by big, bad Wolves."
Peter White takes a knockabout look at the saga in *The Express*

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TALENT SCOUT

TOMORROW'S STARS TODAY

NILMAR

Four 'dads' making Brazilian forward right at home in Lyon

BRAZILIAN ATTACKING STARLET Nilmar was always likely to settle in quickly at Lyon following his £4.1million summer move from Internacional of Porto Alegre. He may speak little French, the weather in Lyon is far cooler than in his homeland and no *Lyonnais* restaurants serve the traditional Brazilian pork and beans dish of *feijoada*. But the presence of four compatriots in the dressing-room has undoubtedly helped to ease any culture shock.

"The other Brazilians in the team are my four dads," says Nilmar, 20, who marked his senior debut for Brazil with a last-minute goal in a 6-0 friendly win in Haiti last August. "Our team captain, Cacapa, has watched over me, Juninho gives the most advice on the pitch, while I live in the same apartment block as Cris and we socialise a lot. Giovane Elber has taken me under his wing as well. Like me, he came to Europe very young and knows it isn't easy."

It's ironic that Elber is something of a father figure since Nilmar would never have set foot in Lyon if the former Bayern Munich star had not broken his right leg and suffered ankle ligament damage against Metz in August. With Elber set to be sidelined for at least four months, Lyon badly needed another front-runner, and director of recruitment Bernard Lacombe immediately thought of Nilmar.

"I'd seen him play at the World Youth Cup and also in a couple of Brazilian League games," said Lacombe. "He has enormous technical qualities, he's very quick, moves cleverly and likes to take defenders on. He's very much like a Wayne Rooney."

Nilmar's five-year contract stipulates he can be loaned back to Internacional when Elber is fit again. However, the prospect of that clause being invoked disappeared during the youngster's first appearance for Lyon, when as a substitute he scored two expertly-taken goals in a 2-1 win at Rennes.

Nilmar is often compared to former Brazilian international Bebeto. Besides their adolescent looks, they share many playing characteristics – the ability to float from central to wide areas, the delicate touch, the elegance, the instant appreciation of options, the sharp finishing.

Nilmar, born in Bandeirantes in the southern state of Parana, joined Internacional at 17 and has truly blossomed over the past two years. He was a member of the Brazil Under-23 side who were runners-up to Mexico at the 2003 Gold Cup and later that year helped his country claim the World Youth Cup in the United Arab Emirates.

Kaka, Diego, Robinho, Adriano, Luis Fabiano and now Nilmar. Young and gifted Brazilian footballers never seem to stop sprouting.

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club Lyon (Fra)
Country Brazil
Born July 14, 1984, in Bandeirantes
Previous clubs Bandeirantes, Internacional
International debut August 2004, v Haiti
International caps 1 (1 goal)
Honours World Youth Cup 2003

Salomon KALOU

Feyenoord's Ivorian revelation eyeing the chance to play for Holland

THE SOCCER ACADEMY set up at the ASEC club in the Ivorian capital Abidjan by former French international midfielder Jean-Marc Guillou continues to be a hothouse of excellence.

If Anderlecht striker Aruna Dindane, Arsenal centre-back Kolo Toure and midfielder Gilles Yapi Yapo of Nantes constituted the first wave of talent to break upon European shores, teenage Feyenoord striker Salomon Kalou is on the crest of the second.

The 19-year-old younger brother of Ivory Coast and Auxerre front man Bonaventure Kalou – who himself spent six years at Feyenoord before moving to France in 2003 – appeared in only two Dutch League games before this season. But no one would have guessed it from the way he has run riot this term, using his speed, exuberance and ball skills to pierce defences at will. He has also proved himself a fine goalscorer into the bargain, with nine in the first 12 games.

"While it's nice to be one of the leading scorers in Holland, I'm trying not to get carried away with it all," says Kalou, who left ASEC for Feyenoord at 16 and served his European apprenticeship with the Rotterdammers' B team and during a loan spell at local feeder club Excelsior.

"This is my first full season in the Dutch championship and I've much more to prove. I'm just enjoying myself. I'm playing just behind the central striker [Dirk Kuijt] and that's where I feel happiest. I like to run at defences from deep."

Kalou is hot property. Chelsea, who already have one exceptional Ivorian striker in Didier Drogba, are rumoured to be ready to make a move, as are Atletico Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain, while Auxerre boss Guy Roux would like to reunite the Kalou brothers in his side's attack.

The Dutch federation has an eye on him too. Whispers began to circulate this autumn that it was preparing to set the wheels in motion for Kalou to take Dutch citizenship.

When he turned down an invitation to play for the Ivory Coast in African Junior Championship qualifiers, many felt he was heading inexorably towards the Dutch flag. But Kalou is well aware that a naturalisation process would be a controversial move, and the Ivorian federation is bound to intensify its charm offensive for him to play for the Elephants.

The influence of his brother will also come into play. After all, Salomon has often said that his dream is to play in the same Ivory Coast team as Bonaventure. For the moment, all options are being kept open.

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club Feyenoord (Hol)
Country Ivory Coast
Born August 5, 1985, in Oume
Previous clubs ASEC Abidjan, Excelsior (Hol)

Luis Amaranto PEREA

Defender reigning in Spain and rock solid for Colombia

THEIR OWN FANS may not have realised, but it was Colombia's year in South America's World Cup qualification campaign. A year ago they were at the bottom of the table; now they are back in contention. In the seven rounds staged in 2004 only Argentina had a better record, and nobody could match Colombia's goals-conceded tally of just three.

Such solidity is based on the partnership of Ivan Cordoba and Mario Yepes, but now a third quality defender has emerged to bolster the back line. Luis Amaranto Perea has been a fixture in the side since Reinaldo Rueda took over as coach earlier this year, usually at right-back but moving into the middle, his favoured position, in the absence of either of the first-choice pair. "Perea has an exceptional physical condition," says Rueda. "He has pace and technique. His concentration and calm make him a highly efficient defender, and he's even better as a person than he is as a player."

Perea's perseverance has played a key part in his footballing success. From a small town on the Caribbean coast, he risked the long and bumpy bus ride to the big city in search of opportunities. Just five years ago he was selling ice-cream outside Medellin's main stadium. Soon afterwards he was one of the attractions inside it as Independiente Medellin put together their best team for ages. In 2001 they were championship runners-up, and the following year they won their first title since 1957.

In 2003 they made it to the Libertadores Cup semi-finals, and Perea's exceptional defending caught the eye of Boca Juniors coach Carlos Bianchi. Once in Argentina, Perea soon had another championship medal and some added versatility. In Colombia he was a centre-back, usually operating on the left of a back three. In Argentina he played mostly at right-back. His speed meant there was no reason to fear the open spaces. It was the position he filled when Boca beat Milan in the World Club Cup.

Then came a move to Atletico Madrid, whose coach Raddy Antic called him "the best defender in La Liga, a pure diamond, with incredible tactical awareness". One of Atletico's all-time great centre-backs, Brazilian Luiz Pereira, is on the club's coaching staff and is also a big fan of Perea. "He's a terrific player, quick, with an excellent sense of covering, and good in the air. Perhaps his only defect is in bringing the ball out of defence."

Despite this year's progress at international level, Perea says: "Colombia's best team was in the 90s. We're in transition, but I can see a lot of gifted players coming through, and in a couple of years we might see a side just as strong." And with Perea around, one that is harder to score against.

Tim Vickery

FACT FILE

Club Atletico Madrid (Spa)
Country Colombia
Born January 30, 1979, in Turbo
Previous clubs Independiente Medellin, Boca Juniors (Arg)
International debut December 2002, v Honduras
International caps 16 (0 gls)
Honours World Club Cup 2003; Colombian closing championship 2002; Argentinian opening championship 2003

Robert VITTEK

Slovak striker on a hot scoring streak

YOUNG NURNBERG STRIKER Robert Vittek has been in the vanguard of Slovakia's fine start to their World Cup campaign, bagging five goals to date, including a hat-trick in the 7-0 thrashing of Liechtenstein and the late equaliser in a 1-1 draw away to Russia. "Robert is on a scoring streak, and long may it continue," says Slovakia boss Dusan Galis. "His confidence is high and his instincts are taking him to the right places in and around the box."

The 22-year-old, who offers speed, robustness and technical prowess, has always been something of a golden boy. He was labelled the Great White Hope of Slovak football as soon as he broke into the Slovan Bratislava first team as a 16-year-old, and a total of 39 League goals for Slovan between 2001 and 2003 had representatives from the likes of Celtic, Fenerbahce and Stuttgart reportedly making a beeline for the Slovak capital. However, nothing came of the speculation and Vittek had to set his sights lower, moving to German Second Division side Nurnberg in August 2003 on a one-season loan.

The £200,000 the club stumped up for his services last season proved money well spent as his goals played a big part in bringing them the Second Division title. So there was no chance of Nurnberg ignoring their option to sign him permanently last summer, especially with cash-starved Slovan ready to lower their asking price from £1.4million to £900,000. And how pleased his new employers were. "Robert is a raw diamond," gushed Nurnberg coach Wolfgang Wolf.

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club	Nurnberg (Ger)
Country	Slovakia
Born	April 1, 1982, in Bratislava
Previous club	Slovan Bratislava
International debut	May 2001, v Germany
International caps	26 (11 gls)

Thomas HITZLSPERGER

Der Hammer hitting the spot with Villa and Germany

WHILE BERTI VOGTS' time in charge of Scotland can only be described as a failure, he continues to exert influence in the German game. When asked by new national coach Jurgen Klinsmann how he rated Aston Villa midfielder Thomas Hitzlsperger, Vogts was full of praise for the 22-year-old's energy, commitment and left foot. The latter is an instrument for both precision passing and thunderbolt shooting and is the reason he is nicknamed 'Der Hammer'.

Klinsmann duly gave the youngster his senior debut in the 2-0 friendly win away to Iran in October, and his performance suggested he may be the answer to the Germans' long-term problem area, left midfield. The coach was certainly impressed, saying: "I was struck by his lack of fear and willingness to learn. He likes to play at a high tempo and is strong."

Hitzlsperger, brought up on his parents' farm in the hamlet of Forstinning south of Munich, showed his footballing ability at a very early age, joining Bayern Munich's schoolboy section at seven. He was invited to Villa for a trial after catching the eye during an Under-18 international and performed so ably that he was immediately offered a contract. A spell in the reserves and a loan move to lower division Chesterfield gave him a grounding in the English game and by the start of the 2002-03 season he was entrenched in the Villa first team.

Hitzlsperger has spoken about returning to Germany, and with his contract running out next June and no sign of a new one being negotiated, Bundesliga clubs are jostling to take him on a free. If Villa want to keep hold of him, they will have to act – and fast.

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club	Aston Villa (Eng)
Country	Germany
Born	April 5, 1982, in Munich
Previous clubs	Bayern Munich, Chesterfield (Eng)
International debut	October 2004, v Iran
International caps	2 (0 gls)

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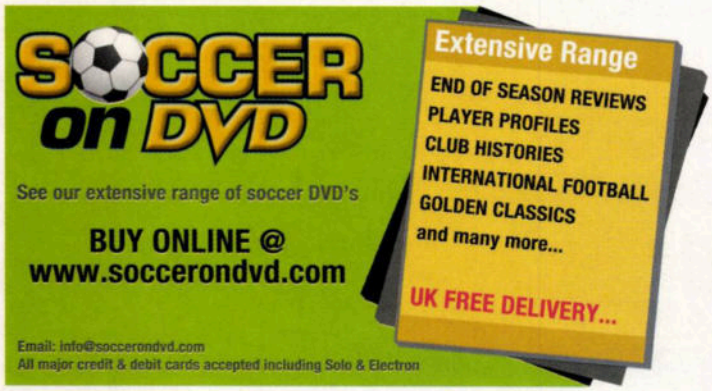

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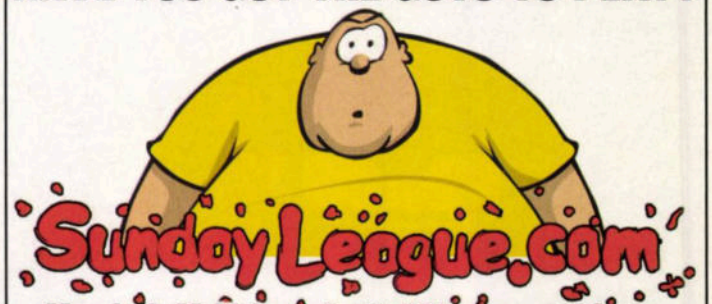

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Monday, November 1

Nov 1 - Singapore - friendly
Singapore 1 (Dickson 21)
Malaysia 2 (Khalid 68, Amri 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,293. **Ref:** Luong (Vie)

Nov 1 - Dubai, UAE - friendly
Yemen 2
Zambia 2
HT: 1-0

Friday, November 5

Nov 5 - Kuwait City - friendly
Kuwait 2 (Al-Fahed 35, B Abdullah 54)
India 3 (T Singh 48, Zirsanga 64, Yadav 75)
HT: 1-0

Wednesday, November 10

Nov 10 - Kuwait City - friendly
Kuwait 3
Kyrgyzstan 0
HT: 1-0

Nov 10 - San Antonio, USA - friendly
Mexico 2 (Osorno 67, A Medina 69)
Guatemala 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Terry (USA)
Mexico: Munoz - Mendez (J C Medina 70), F Rodriguez, Galindo (H Sanchez 55), Pineda, Juan P Rodriguez, Altamirano (A Medina 60), M Perez, R Garcia (Valdez 67), Olalde (Osorno 60), Fonseca.
Guatemala: Klee - E Cabrera (Navas 75), Melgar, G Cabrera, Rodriguez, Sanabria, Thompson (Castillo 85), Romero (Antonio 88), Ruiz, Plata (Pezzarossi 62), Ramirez.

Thursday, November 11

Nov 11 - Abu Dhabi - friendly
United Arab Emirates 4
Jordan 0
HT: 1-0

Saturday, November 13

Nov 13 - Washington DC - friendly
Guatemala 1 (Ruiz 21)
Bolivia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Prus (USA)
Guatemala: Trigueno - Ramirez, Romero (Thompson), Rodriguez, Sanabria, Castillo (Zacarias), G Cabrera, Morales, W Estrada (Plata), Hernandez, Ruiz.
Bolivia: L Fernandez - Jauregui, Pizarro, Alvarez (Mojica 86), Arana, Cristaldo (Galindo 46), Tufino (Rojas 41), Vaca Diez, Coimbra, L Gutierrez, Arce.

Nov 13 - Kingstown - friendly
St Vincent & The Grenadines 6 (James 12, 27, W John 19, Joseph 71, Gonsalves 74, Velox 88)
Grenada 2 (Rennie 42, Bishop 81)
HT: 3-1

Tuesday, November 16

Nov 16 - London - friendly
Australia 2 (Cahill 45, Skoko 58)
Norway 2 (Iversen 42, Gamst Pedersen 72)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 7,364. **Ref:** Styles (Eng)
Australia: Schwarzer - Neill, T Vidmar, Popovic, Lazaridis (Tiatto 52), Skoko, Bresciano (Grella 46), Cahill (Chipperfield 77), Emerton (Elrich 77), Viduka, Kewell.
Norway: Myhre - El-Fakiri, Hagen, Lundekvam (Soma 46), Riise, Odegaard (Saeternes 46), Holm (Gashi 46), Hoseth, Gamst Pedersen, Iversen (Hangeland 77), Carew (Karadas 61).

Nov 16 - Dublin - friendly
Rep Ireland 1 (Robbie Keane 24)
Croatia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 33,200. **Ref:** Orrason (Ice)
Rep Ireland: Kenny (Given 77) - Finnan, Breen (Cunningham 52), Dunne, O'Shea, Miller, Kavanagh, Kilbane (Quinn 77), Duff, Robbie Keane (McGeady 90), Elliott (Barrett 85).
Croatia: Butina - Srna, Tudor (Balaban 46), R Kovac, Simunic (Neretljak 73), Vranjes (I Leko 64), N Kovac, Tomas (Tokic 65), Kranjcar, Babic (Pranjic 59), Klasnic (Eduardo 59).

Wednesday, November 17

Nov 17 - Toulon, France - friendly
Algeria 1 (Daoud 77)
Senegal 2 (Niang 35, Gueye 41)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Bata (Fra)
Algeria: Abdouni - Brahami (Yahia 79), Bougherra, Beloufa, Belhadj, Achiou (Mansouri 46), Belkaid (Ziani 46), Dziri, Arrache (Mamouni 84), Saifi (Daoud 57), Bourahli.
Senegal: Sylva - Daf (Sylvain N'Diaye 46), P M Diop, Diawara (Seck 46), Diatta (Amdy Faye 46), Diao, P B Diop, D Faye, Gueye (Ba 73), E H Diouf (Dia 77), Niang.

Nov 17 - Baku - friendly
Azerbaijan 0
Bulgaria 0
Att: 10,000

Nov 17 - Saint-Denis - friendly
France 0
Poland 0
Att: 50,480. **Ref:** Benquerenca (Por)
France: Landreau - Sagnol, Squillaci (Givet 46), Boumsong, Gallas, Giuly (Govou 26), Pedretti, Vieira, Malouda (Evra 46), Saha (Meriem 65), Henry.
Poland: Dudek - Baszczynski, Hajto (Klos 46), J Bak, Rzasa (Michal Zewlakow 56), Kosowski (Gorawski 90), Szymkowiak (Mila 66), Kaluzny, Krzynowek (Radomski 90), Zurawski, Frankowski (Rasiak 82).

Nov 17 - Leipzig - friendly
Germany 3 (Kuranyi 71, Klose 78, 88)
Cameroon 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 44,200. **Ref:** De Santis (Ita)
Germany: Lehmann - Schneider, Mertesacker, Huth, Lahm (Hitzlsperger 66), Schweinsteiger, Frings, Ballack, Ernst (Borowski 80), Asamoah (Klose 62), Kuranyi.
Cameroon: I C Kameni - Song, Mettomo (Perrier-Doumbe 35), Tchato, Geremi, Djemba Djemba, Atouba, Douala (Feutchine 55), Makoun, Eto'o (N'Diefi 88), Job (Ateba Bilayi 73). *Sent off: Djemba Djemba 81min.*

Nov 17 - Messina - friendly
Italy 1 (Miccoli 33)
Finland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,043. **Ref:** Tudor (Rom)
Italy: Pelizzoli - Zaccardo, Barzagli, Materazzi, Parisi (Chiellini 46), Esposito (Diana 46), Blasi, De Rossi (Barone 63), Mauri, Toni (Caracciolo 68), Miccoli (Montella 46).
Finland: Jaaskelainen - Nurmela, Kuivasto, Kallio, Kopteff, Vayrynen (Okkonen 68), Eremenko (Kangaskorpi 88), Johansson, Litmanen (Roiha 74), Kolkka (Multaharju 63), Kuqi.

Nov 17 - Rabat - friendly
Morocco 4 (Oulmres 52, Boukhari 68, Sarsar 80, Yassine 82)
Burkina Faso 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000

Nov 17 - Edinburgh - friendly
Scotland 1 (McFadden pen 78)
Sweden 4 (Allback 27, 49, Elmander 72, Berglund 73)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,071. **Ref:** Jara (Cze)
Scotland: Marshall - McNaughton, Anderson, Webster (Hammell 53), Murray, McNamara (Severin 64), Nicholson, Quashie (Hughes 82), Pearson, McFadden, K Miller (Crawford 71).
Sweden: Hedman - M Nilsson (Ostlund 62), Mellberg (P Hansson 46), Lucic, Dorsin, Alexandersson, Anders Andersson, Kallstrom, Wilhelmsson (Touma 78), Allback (Elmander 65), Berglund.

Nov 17 - Trnava - friendly
Slovakia 0
Slovenia 0
Att: 5,482. **Ref:** Skjerven (Nor)
Slovakia: Konig (Contofalsky 46) - Zabavnik (Janocko 46), Kratochvil, Petras, Cech, Hanek (Valachovic 46), Karhan, Gresko (M Durica 7), Mintal, Vittek (Breska 68), Sestak (Reiter 46).
Slovenia: Handanovic - Pokorn, M Mavric, Knavs, Cesar, Semler (Brecko 78), Komac, Seslar, N Ceh, Acimovic (Zinko 82), Cimirotic (Sukalo 88).

Nov 17 - Johannesburg - friendly
South Africa 2 (Bartlett 22, Vilakazi 60)
Nigeria 1 (Makinwa 61)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 39,817. **Ref:** Maranje (Zim)
South Africa: Vonk - Nzama, A Mokoena, Morris, Carnell, Fortune, Vilakazi (Mkhonza 89), Buckley (Leremi 73), Zuma (Pule 57), Bartlett (Nomvete 76), B McCarthy.
Nigeria: Etafia - Abbey, Taye (Okechukwu 70), Enakarhire, Sodje, Olofinjana, Obiefule, Akwuegbu (Ojo 88), Kaku (Otegheri 65), Martins, Makinwa.

Nov 17 - Madrid - friendly
Spain 1 (Del Horno 9)
England 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Kasnaferis (Gre)
Spain: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Juanito, Marchena (Pablo 46), Del Horno, Xabi Alonso (Orbaiz 69), Joaquin (Romero 80), Xavi, Reyes (Angulo 53), Raul (Guti 46), Fernando Torres (Luque 46).
England: Robinson - G Neville, Ferdinand (Carragher 62), Terry (Upson 65), A Cole (Defoe 76), Beckham (Wright-Phillips 60), Lampard (Jenas 60), Butt, Bridge, Rooney (Smith 42), Owen.

Saturday, November 20

Nov 20 - Gouyave - friendly
Grenada 3 (A Modeste 6, Charles 13, 88)
St Vincent & The Grenadines 2 (Gonsalves 18, Haynes 58)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Bedeau (Grn)

Monday, November 22

Nov 22 - Abu Dhabi - friendly
United Arab Emirates 2 (Obaid 21, Masoud 74)
Belarus 3 (Shkabara 44, Kovel 60, Kulchy 90)
HT: 1-1

Saturday, November 27

Nov 27 - Abu Dhabi - friendly
United Arab Emirates 0
Kuwait 1 (Al-Harbi 50)
HT: 0-0

KING'S CUP

In Thailand

Semi-finals

Nov 30 - Bangkok
Thailand 0
Estonia 0
Ref: Mat Amin (Mly)
Thailand 4-3 on pens
Thailand: Siwaruk - Niweat, Prathum (Songsak 46), Therdsak, Kikkisak, Atthipol (Jessada 80), Yuttayak, Sarif, Thanongsak, Nakarin, Weerayut.
Estonia: Kaalma - Sisov, Enar Jaager, Piiroja, Kruglov, Reim, Enver Jaager, Lember, Viikmae (Reinumae 77), Zahhovaiko (Teever 65), Smirnov (Saharov 75).

Nov 30 - Bangkok
Hungary 0
Slovakia 1 (Porazik 48)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000
Hungary: Vlaszak - Kriston (Nikolov 46), Stark, Juhasz, Vanczak (Waltner 88), B Toth, Vadocz (Kerekes 66), Simek, Rosa (Koplarovics 54), Vincze, P Kovacs (Rajczi 66).
Slovakia: Trabalik - Cisovsky, Sninsky, Borbely, J Durica, Barcik (Fodrek 80), Kozak (Zofcak 60), Had, M Durica, Sestak (Porazik 46), Jakubko (Belak 46).

Third-place play-off

Dec 2 - Bangkok
Estonia 0
Hungary 5 (Rosa 12, Waltner 14, Kerekes 19, Rajczi 24, Pollak 63)
HT: 0-4. **Att:** 800. **Ref:** Tongkhan (Tha)
Estonia: Kotenko - Allas, Post (Piiroja 65), Barengrub, Sidorenkov (Smirnov 78), Dmitrijev (Lember 54), Saharov, Reinumae, Ahjupera (Kruglov 70), Kosemets (Zahhovaiko 55), Teever.
Hungary: Vlaszak (Posza 46) - Nikolov, Komlosi, Juhasz (Stark 66), Rosa (Vincze 46), Kerekes, Waltner, Rajczi, Eger, Pollak (Vanczak 70), Koplarovics (B Toth 46).

Final

Dec 2 - Bangkok
Thailand 1 (Sakda pen 12)
Slovakia 1 (M Durica pen 67)
HT: 1-0
Slovakia 5-4 on pens
Slovakia: Pernis - Cisovsky (K Nemeth 46), Sninsky, J Durica, Had (M Durica 46), Borbely, Barcik (Fodrek 52), Urban (Belak 46), Zofcak (Sestak 46), Porazik, Jakubko.

COSAFA CASTLE CUP

Final

Nov 20 - Lusaka
Zambia 0
Angola 0
Aet. **Ref:** Lwanja (Mwi)
Angola 5-4 on pens
Zambia: Mweene - Hachilensa, Musonda, Tana, Lungu, C Katongo, Chansa (Bwalya 81), Bakala, F Katongo (Nsofwa 65), Mulenga (Mwape 101), Milanzi.
Angola: Lama - Jacinto, Jamba, Lebo-Lebo, Yamba Asha, Ito (Kadima 89), Fofana (Love 78), Simao, Stopirra (Rats 66), Maurito, Flavio.

2005 GOLD CUP QUALIFIERS

CARIBBEAN ZONE

(tournament doubles as the Caribbean Cup)

1st rnd

Group A

Staged in Jamaica

Nov 24 - Kingston
Haiti 11 (Mesidor 13, 30, 48, Ulcena 15, 78, Saint-Preux 33, Chery 40, 90, Lormera 57, Germain 64, Thelamour 87)
US Virgin Islands 0
HT: 5-0. **Att:** 250. **Ref:** Piper (T&T)

Nov 24 - Kingston
Jamaica 12 (Dean 2, 11, 30, Hue 10, Shelton 17, 39, 45, 52, Stephenson 18, Scarlett 20, 85, West 54)
Saint-Martin 0
HT: 9-0. **Att:** 2,600. **Ref:** Brizan (T&T)

Nov 26 - Montego Bay
Saint-Martin 0
Haiti 2 (Bruny 25, Thelamour 67)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Brizan (T&T)

Nov 26 - Montego Bay
US Virgin Islands 1 (Lauro 72)
Jamaica 11 (Shelton 8, Dean 23, 32, Hue 35, 53, 56, Stephenson 40, A Williams 50, F Davis 64, Bennett 67, Priestly 68)
HT: 0-5. **Att:** 4,200. **Ref:** Piper (T&T)

Nov 28 - Kingston
US Virgin Islands 0
Saint-Martin 0
Att: 200. **Ref:** Brizan (T&T)
Sent off: Pierre 80min, Monty 82min (both US Virgin Islands)

Nov 28 - Kingston
Jamaica 3 (Stephenson 20, Dean 22, Shelton 30)
Haiti 1 (Ulcena 41)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Piper (T&T)

GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jamaica	3	3	0	0	26	2	9
Haiti	3	2	0	1	14	3	6
Saint-Martin	3	0	1	2	0	14	1
US Virgin Is	3	0	1	2	1	22	1

Group B
Staged in Martinique

Nov 10 - Fort-de-France
Guadeloupe 0
French Guiana 1 (Cosset 52)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Fanus (StL)

Nov 10 - Fort-de-France
Martinique 5 (Bullet 28, 44, J Goron 43, Percin 58, Thalien 87)
Dominica 1 (Peltier 39)
HT: 3-1. **Ref:** Arthur (StL)

Nov 12 - Riviere-Pilote
Guadeloupe 7 (D Mocka 13, 39, E Mocka 23, 26, 35, Laurent 47, Cassubie 76)
Dominica 0
HT: 5-0. **Ref:** Arthur (StL)

Nov 12 - Riviere-Pilote
French Guiana 0
Martinique 0
Ref: Fanus (StL)
Sent off: Gibon (Martinique) 89min

Nov 14 - Fort-de-France
Dominica 0
French Guiana 4 (Boecasse 5, Martinon 68, Breleur 77, 84)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Fanus (StL)

Nov 14 - Fort-de-France
Martinique 0
Guadeloupe 0
Ref: Arthur (StL)

GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
French Guiana	3	2	1	0	5	0	7
Martinique	3	1	2	0	5	1	5
Guadeloupe	3	1	1	1	7	1	4
Dominica	3	0	0	3	1	16	0

Group C
Cuba received a bye to 2nd rnd because all other scheduled group opponents – Dominican Republic, Dutch Antilles and Guyana – withdrew

Group D
Staged in Trinidad & Tobago

Nov 24 - Tunapuna
Grenada 2 (Charles 46, Bishop 50)
Surinam 2 (P Modeste og 27, Sandvliet 59)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Forde (Bar)

Nov 24 - Tunapuna
Trinidad & Tobago 5 (Glenn 13, 43, 48, King pen 81, C Smith 89)
Puerto Rico 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Callender (Bar)

Nov 26 - Marabella
Puerto Rico 1 (Ortiz 80)
Surinam 1 (Sandvliet 45)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Forde (Bar)
Sent off: Emanuelson (Surinam) 90min

Nov 26 - Marabella
Trinidad & Tobago 2 (N Pierre pen 22, C Gray 50)
Grenada 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Callender (Bar)

Nov 28 - Malabar
Grenada 5 (Velez og 1, Charles 3, Rennie 58, Williams 68, Langiagne 75)
Puerto Rico 2 (Garcia 85, I Nieves 86)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Callender (Bar)
Sent off: Velez (Puerto Rico) 62min

Nov 28 - Malabar
Surinam 0
Trinidad & Tobago 1 (Glenn 65)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Forde (Bar)

GROUP D – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trinidad & Tob	3	3	0	0	8	0	9
Grenada	3	1	1	1	7	6	4
Surinam	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Puerto Rico	3	0	1	2	3	11	1

Group E
Staged in St Vincent & The Grenadines

Nov 24 - Kingstown
Cayman Islands 1 (Berry 48)
Bermuda 2 (K Smith 4, Hill 34)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 200. **Ref:** Matthew (StK)
Sent off: Berry (Cayman Islands) 78min

Nov 24 - Kingstown
St Vincent & The Grenadines 1 (M Forde 69)
British Virgin Islands 1 (Haynes 53)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 300. **Ref:** Prendergast (Jam)

Nov 26 - Kingstown
British Virgin Islands 0
Cayman Islands 1 (Whittaker 49)
HT: 0-0

Nov 26 - Kingstown
St Vincent & The Grenadines 3 (Pierre 7, Haynes 52, S Samuel 54)
Bermuda 3 (K Smith 42, Lowe 82, Ming pen 90)
HT: 1-1

Nov 28 - Kingstown
Bermuda 0
British Virgin Islands 2 (James 12, 24)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 400. **Ref:** Matthew (StK)

Nov 28 - Kingstown
St Vincent & The Grenadines 4 (S Samuel 20, M Forde 43, Haynes 51, Gonsalves 80)
Cayman Islands 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 850. **Ref:** Prendergast (Jam)
Sent off: Nelson (Cayman Islands) 45min

GROUP E – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Vincent/Gren	3	1	2	0	8	4	5
British Virgin Is	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Bermuda	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
Cayman Is	3	1	0	2	2	6	3

Group F
Staged in St Kitts & Nevis

Oct 31 - Basseterre
St Kitts & Nevis 6 (J Francis 10, 45, 86, Connonier 36, G Isaac 57, Hodge 83)
Montserrat 1 (Adams 81)
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Bedeau (Grn)

Nov 2 - Basseterre
Montserrat 4 (Bramble 36, Fox 41, Mendes 50, V Farrell 61)
Antigua & Barbuda 5 (Hawson og 30, Frederick 53, Gonsalves 67, 82, T Thomas 72)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Phillip (Grn)

Nov 2 - Basseterre
St Lucia 1 (Gilbert 67)
St Kitts & Nevis 1 (J Francis 15)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Bedeau (Grn)

St Lucia v Montserrat (scheduled to be played Nov 4) – awarded 3-0 to St Lucia because Montserrat did not show

Nov 4 - Basseterre
St Kitts & Nevis 2 (Sargeant 34, G Isaac 45)
Antigua & Barbuda 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Phillip (Grn)

Nov 6 - Basseterre
Antigua & Barbuda 1 (Dublin 65)
St Lucia 2 (Elva 22, Gilbert 27)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Bedeau (Grn)
Sent off: Carr (Antigua & Barbuda) 90min; Lewis (St Lucia) 90min

GROUP F – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Kitts & Nevis	3	2	1	0	9	2	7
St Lucia	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Antigua & Barb	3	1	0	2	6	8	3
Montserrat	3	0	0	3	5	14	0

Top two from each group qualified for 2nd rnd

2nd rnd draw

Grenada v St Vincent & The Grenadines
Haiti v St Kitts & Nevis
Jamaica v St Lucia
Martinique v Cuba
Trinidad & Tobago v British Virgin Islands

French Guiana receive bye to 3rd rnd

Ties to be played on a home and away basis in December; winners qualify for 3rd rnd

2006 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

AFRICA

5 finals berths

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Togo	5	3	1	1	6	2	10
Zambia	5	3	1	1	6	4	10
Senegal	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
Congo	5	2	0	3	6	7	6
Liberia	5	1	1	3	1	7	4
Mali	5	0	2	3	3	6	2

05.06.04 Senegal-Congo 2-0
05.06.04 Zambia-Togo 1-0
06.06.04 Liberia-Mali 1-0
19.06.04 Mali-Zambia 1-1
20.06.04 Congo-Liberia 3-0
20.06.04 Togo-Senegal 3-1
03.07.04 Senegal-Zambia 1-0
04.07.04 Congo-Mali 1-0
04.07.04 Liberia-Togo 0-0
04.09.04 Zambia-Liberia 1-0
05.09.04 Mali-Senegal 2-2
05.09.04 Togo-Congo 2-0
10.10.04 Congo-Zambia 2-3
10.10.04 Liberia-Senegal 0-3
10.10.04 Togo-Mali 1-0
25.03.05 Mali-Togo
25.03.05 Senegal-Liberia
25.03.05 Zambia-Congo
03.06.05 Congo-Senegal
03.06.05 Mali-Liberia
03.06.05 Togo-Zambia
17.06.05 Liberia-Congo
17.06.05 Senegal-Togo
17.06.05 Zambia-Mali
02.09.05 Mali-Congo
02.09.05 Togo-Liberia
02.09.05 Zambia-Senegal
07.10.05 Congo-Togo
07.10.05 Liberia-Zambia
07.10.05 Senegal-Mali

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Africa	5	3	0	2	5	5	9
Ghana	5	2	2	1	6	2	8
DR Congo	5	2	2	1	5	4	8
Cape Verde Is	5	2	1	2	4	5	7
Burkina Faso	5	2	0	3	5	6	6
Uganda	5	1	1	3	2	5	4

05.06.04 Burkina Faso-Ghana 1-0
05.06.04 South Africa-Cape Verde Is 2-1
05.06.04 Uganda-DR Congo 1-0
19.06.04 Cape Verde Is-Uganda 1-0
20.06.04 DR Congo-Burkina Faso 3-2
20.06.04 Ghana-South Africa 3-0
03.07.04 Cape Verde Is-DR Congo 1-1
03.07.04 South Africa-Burkina Faso 2-0
03.07.04 Uganda-Ghana 1-1
04.09.04 Burkina Faso-Uganda 2-0
05.09.04 DR Congo-South Africa 1-0
05.09.04 Ghana-Cape Verde Is 2-0
09.10.04 Cape Verde Is-Burkina Faso 1-0
10.10.04 Ghana-DR Congo 0-0
10.10.04 Uganda-South Africa 0-1
25.03.05 Burkina Faso-Cape Verde Is
25.03.05 DR Congo-Ghana
25.03.05 South Africa-Uganda
03.06.05 Cape Verde Is-South Africa
03.06.05 DR Congo-Uganda
03.06.05 Ghana-Burkina Faso
17.06.05 Burkina Faso-DR Congo
17.06.05 South Africa-Ghana
17.06.05 Uganda-Cape Verde Is
02.09.05 Burkina Faso-South Africa
02.09.05 DR Congo-Cape Verde Is
02.09.05 Ghana-Uganda
07.10.05 Cape Verde Is-Ghana
07.10.05 South Africa-DR Congo
07.10.05 Uganda-Burkina Faso

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast	5	4	0	1	10	3	12
Libya	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Cameroon	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Egypt	5	2	1	2	11	9	7
Benin	5	0	2	3	6	11	2
Sudan	5	0	2	3	2	11	2

06.06.04 Cameroon-Benin 2-1
06.06.04 Ivory Coast-Libya 2-0
06.06.04 Sudan-Egypt 0-3
18.06.04 Libya-Cameroon 0-0
20.06.04 Benin-Sudan 1-1
20.06.04 Egypt-Ivory Coast 1-2
03.07.04 Sudan-Libya 0-1
04.07.04 Benin-Egypt 3-3
04.07.04 Cameroon-Ivory Coast 2-0
03.09.04 Libya-Benin 4-1
05.09.04 Egypt-Cameroon 3-2
05.09.04 Ivory Coast-Sudan 5-0
08.10.04 Libya-Egypt 2-1
09.10.04 Sudan-Cameroon 1-1
10.10.04 Benin-Ivory Coast 0-1
25.03.05 Cameroon-Sudan
25.03.05 Egypt-Libya
25.03.05 Ivory Coast-Benin
03.06.05 Benin-Cameroon
03.06.05 Egypt-Sudan
03.06.05 Libya-Ivory Coast
17.06.05 Cameroon-Libya
17.06.05 Ivory Coast-Egypt
17.06.05 Sudan-Benin
02.09.05 Egypt-Benin
02.09.05 Ivory Coast-Cameroon
02.09.05 Libya-Sudan
07.10.05 Benin-Libya
07.10.05 Cameroon-Egypt
07.10.05 Sudan-Ivory Coast

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Angola	5	3	2	0	5	2	11
Nigeria	5	3	1	1	7	2	10
Gabon	5	1	3	1	8	7	6
Zimbabwe	5	1	2	2	4	6	5
Rwanda	5	1	1	3	4	7	4
Algeria	5	0	3	2	2	6	3

05.06.04 Algeria-Angola 0-0
05.06.04 Gabon-Zimbabwe 1-1
05.06.04 Nigeria-Rwanda 2-0
19.06.04 Rwanda-Gabon 3-1
20.06.04 Angola-Nigeria 1-0
20.06.04 Zimbabwe-Algeria 1-1
03.07.04 Gabon-Angola 2-2
03.07.04 Nigeria-Algeria 1-0
03.07.04 Rwanda-Zimbabwe 0-2
03.09.04 Zimbabwe-Nigeria 0-3
05.09.04 Algeria-Gabon 0-3
05.09.04 Angola-Rwanda 1-0
09.10.04 Gabon-Nigeria 1-1
09.10.04 Rwanda-Algeria 1-1
10.10.04 Angola-Zimbabwe 1-0

25.03.05	Algeria-Rwanda
25.03.05	Nigeria-Gabon
25.03.05	Zimbabwe-Angola
03.06.05	Angola-Algeria
03.06.05	Rwanda-Nigeria
03.06.05	Zimbabwe-Gabon
17.06.05	Algeria-Zimbabwe
17.06.05	Gabon-Rwanda
17.06.05	Nigeria-Angola
02.09.05	Algeria-Nigeria
02.09.05	Angola-Gabon
02.09.05	Zimbabwe-Rwanda
07.10.05	Gabon-Algeria
07.10.05	Nigeria-Zimbabwe
07.10.05	Rwanda-Angola

Group 5

Nov 17 - Nairobi
Kenya 2 (Oliech 10, Mukenya 61)
Guinea 1 (Feindouno pen 19)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Abd El Fatah (Egy)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guinea	5	2	2	1	9	5	8
Morocco	4	1	3	0	4	3	6
Botswana	5	2	0	3	5	10	6
Kenya	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Tunisia	4	1	2	1	8	6	5
Malawi	5	0	3	2	6	9	3

05.06.04	Malawi-Morocco	1-1
05.06.04	Tunisia-Botswana	4-1
19.06.04	Botswana-Malawi	2-0
20.06.04	Guinea-Tunisia	2-1
03.07.04	Botswana-Morocco	0-1
03.07.04	Malawi-Guinea	1-1
04.09.04	Kenya-Malawi	3-2
04.09.04	Morocco-Tunisia	1-1
05.09.04	Guinea-Botswana	4-0
09.10.04	Botswana-Kenya	2-1
09.10.04	Malawi-Tunisia	2-2
10.10.04	Guinea-Morocco	1-1
17.11.04	Kenya-Guinea	2-1
09.02.05	Morocco-Kenya	
25.03.05	Kenya-Botswana	
25.03.05	Morocco-Guinea	
25.03.05	Tunisia-Malawi	
03.06.05	Morocco-Malawi	
03.06.05	Botswana-Tunisia	
03.06.05	Guinea-Kenya	
17.06.05	Kenya-Morocco	
17.06.05	Malawi-Botswana	
17.06.05	Tunisia-Guinea	
17.08.05	Tunisia-Kenya	
02.09.05	Kenya-Tunisia	
02.09.05	Morocco-Botswana	
02.09.05	Guinea-Malawi	
07.10.05	Malawi-Kenya	
07.10.05	Tunisia-Morocco	
07.10.05	Botswana-Guinea	

Group winners qualify for finals

ASIA

4.5 finals berths

1st stage

Group 1

Nov 17 - Tehran
Iran 7 (Daei 8, 20, 28, 58, Nekounam 63, 72, Borhani 69)
Laos 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Mamedov (Tkm)
Iran: Mirzapour - Golmohammadi, Nekounam, Zare (Kazemeyan 46), Kabei, Mobali (Khatibi 65), Badavi, Nosrati, Borhani (Soleimani 72), Karimi, Daei.

Nov 17 - Doha
Qatar 2 (Al-Hamad 60, Al-Khater 75)
Jordan 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 800. **Ref:** Yoshida (Jap)

GROUP 1 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	6	5	0	1	22	4	15
Jordan	6	4	0	2	10	6	12
Qatar	6	3	0	3	16	8	9
Laos	6	0	0	6	3	33	0

18.02.04	Iran-Qatar	3-1
18.02.04	Jordan-Laos	5-0
31.03.04	Jordan-Qatar	1-0
31.03.04	Laos-Iran	0-7
09.06.04	Iran-Jordan	0-1
09.06.04	Qatar-Laos	5-0
08.09.04	Jordan-Iran	0-2
08.09.04	Laos-Qatar	1-6
13.10.04	Laos-Jordan	2-3
13.10.04	Qatar-Iran	2-3
17.11.04	Iran-Laos	7-0
17.11.04	Qatar-Jordan	2-0

Group 2

Nov 16 - Doha, Qatar
Iraq 4 (Qusai 54, 58, Emad 65, Nashat 70)
Palestine 1 (Zaatara 71)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Al-Mutlaq (Sau)

Nov 17 - Tashkent
Uzbekistan 6 (Geinrikh 5, Kasimov 12, 45, 85, Shatskikh 18, Koshekev 34)
Taiwan 1 (Huang Wei-yi 64)
HT: 5-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Basma (Syr)

GROUP 2 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uzbekistan	6	5	1	0	16	3	16
Iraq	6	3	2	1	17	7	11
Palestine	6	2	1	3	11	11	7
Taiwan	6	0	0	6	3	26	0

18.02.04	Palestine-Taiwan	8-0
18.02.04	Uzbekistan-Iraq	1-1
31.03.04	Palestine-Iraq	1-1
31.03.04	Taiwan-Uzbekistan	0-1
09.06.04	Iraq-Taiwan	6-1
09.06.04	Uzbekistan-Palestine	3-0
08.09.04	Palestine-Uzbekistan	0-3
08.09.04	Taiwan-Iraq	1-4
13.10.04	Iraq-Uzbekistan	1-2
14.10.04	Taiwan-Palestine	0-1
16.11.04	Iraq-Palestine	4-1
17.11.04	Uzbekistan-Taiwan	6-1

Group 3

Nov 17 - Saitama
Japan 1 (Tamada 13)
Singapore 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 58,881. **Ref:** Torky (Irn)
Japan: Doi - Matsuda, Endo, Miyamoto, K Nakata, Ogasawara (Alex 80), Fujita (Okubo 59), A Miura, Motoyama, Kaji, Tamada (T Suzuki 72).

Nov 17 - Muscat
Oman 0
India 0
Att: 2,000. **Ref:** Nurilddin Salman (Irq)

GROUP 3 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan	6	6	0	0	16	1	18
Oman	6	3	1	2	14	3	10
India	6	1	1	4	2	18	4
Singapore	6	1	0	5	3	13	3

18.02.04	India-Singapore	1-0
18.02.04	Japan-Oman	1-0
31.03.04	India-Oman	1-5
31.03.04	Singapore-Japan	1-2
09.06.04	Japan-India	7-0
09.06.04	Oman-Singapore	7-0
08.09.04	India-Japan	0-4
08.09.04	Singapore-Oman	0-2
13.10.04	Oman-Japan	0-1
13.10.04	Singapore-India	2-0
17.11.04	Japan-Singapore	1-0
17.11.04	Oman-India	0-0

Group 4

Nov 17 - Guangzhou
China 7 (Li Jinyu 8, 47, Shao Jiayi 42, 44, Xu Yunlong 49, Yu Genwei 88, Li Weifeng 90)
Hong Kong 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 20,300. **Ref:** Lee (Sko)
China: Liu Yunfei - Zheng Zhi, Shao Jiayi, Yan Song (Li Yi 88), Xu Yunlong, Li Weifeng, Zhao Junzhe, Zhou Ting, Li Jinyu, Wei Xin (Du Wei 79), Hao Haidong (Yu Genwei 61).

Nov 17 - Kuwait City
Kuwait 6 (Al-Mutawa 17, Abdulaziz 60, 70, Saeed 75, 85, Al-Hamad 82)
Malaysia 1 (Mohd 19)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Lutfullin (Uzb)
Sent off: Mohd (Malaysia) 48min

GROUP 4 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kuwait	6	5	0	1	15	2	15
China	6	5	0	1	14	1	15
Hong Kong	6	2	0	4	5	15	6
Malaysia	6	0	0	6	2	18	0

18.02.04	China-Kuwait	1-0
18.02.04	Malaysia-Hong Kong	1-3
31.03.04	Hong Kong-China	0-1
31.03.04	Malaysia-Kuwait	0-2
09.06.04	China-Malaysia	4-0
09.06.04	Kuwait-Hong Kong	4-0
08.09.04	Hong Kong-Kuwait	0-2
08.09.04	Malaysia-China	0-1
13.10.04	Hong Kong-Malaysia	2-0
13.10.04	Kuwait-China	1-0
17.11.04	China-Hong Kong	7-0
17.11.04	Kuwait-Malaysia	6-1

Group 5

Nov 17 - Bangkok
Thailand 1 (Niweat 90)
Yemen 1 (Al-Shehri 69)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Baskar (Ind)

Nov 17 - Dubai
United Arab Emirates 1 (Saleh Obeid 58)
North Korea 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Abdul Hamid (Mly)

GROUP 5 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Korea	6	3	2	1	11	5	11
UAE	6	3	1	2	6	6	10
Thailand	6	2	1	3	9	10	7
Yemen	6	1	2	3	6	11	5

18.02.04	UAE-Thailand	1-0
18.02.04	Yemen-North Korea	1-1
31.03.04	North Korea-UAE	0-0
31.03.04	Yemen-Thailand	0-3
09.06.04	Thailand-North Korea	1-4
09.06.04	UAE-Yemen	3-0
08.09.04	North Korea-Thailand	4-1
08.09.04	Yemen-UAE	3-1
13.10.04	North Korea-Yemen	2-1
13.10.04	Thailand-UAE	3-0
17.11.04	Thailand-Yemen	1-1
17.11.04	UAE-North Korea	1-0

Group 6

Nov 17 - Manama
Bahrain 4 (T Mohamed 9, H Mohamed 40, Hubail 42, 77)
Tajikistan 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Sun (Chn)

Nov 17 - Damascus
Syria 0
Kyrgyzstan 1 (Amin 47)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Tongkhan (Tha)

GROUP 6 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bahrain	6	4	2	0	15	4	14
Syria	6	2	2	2	7	7	8
Tajikistan	6	2	1	3	5	9	7
Kyrgyzstan	6	1	1	4	5	12	4

18.02.04	Bahrain-Syria	2-1
18.02.04	Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan	1-2
31.03.04	Kyrgyzstan-Syria	1-1
31.03.04	Tajikistan-Bahrain	0-0
09.06.04	Bahrain-Kyrgyzstan	5-0
10.06.04	Syria-Tajikistan	2-1
08.09.04	Kyrgyzstan-Bahrain	1-2
08.09.04	Tajikistan-Syria	0-1
13.10.04	Syria-Bahrain	2-2
13.10.04	Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan	2-1
17.11.04	Bahrain-Tajikistan	4-0
17.11.04	Syria-Kyrgyzstan	0-1

Group 7

Nov 17 - Beirut
Lebanon 0
Vietnam 0
Att: 1,000. **Ref:** Ebrahim (Bhn)

Nov 17 - Seoul
South Korea 2 (Kim Do-heon 66, Lee Dong-gook 80)
Maldives 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 64,000. **Ref:** Lazar (Sin)
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Park Jae-hong, Choi Jin-cheul, Yoo Sang-chul, Kim Do-heon, Lee Young-pyo, Lee Chun-soo, Song Chong-gug (Seol Ki-hyeon 72), Park Ji-sung, Lee Dong-gook, Ahn Jung-hwan (Cho Jae-jin 27).

GROUP 7 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	6	4	2	0	9	2	14
Lebanon	6	3	2	1	11	5	11
Vietnam	6	1	1	4	5	9	4
Maldives	6	1	1	4	5	14	4

18.02.04	South Korea-Lebanon	2-0
18.02.04	Vietnam-Maldives	4-0
31.03.04	Maldives-South Korea	0-0
31.03.04	Vietnam-Lebanon	0-2
09.06.04	Lebanon-Maldives	3-0
09.06.04	South Korea-Vietnam	2-0
08.09.04	Maldives-Lebanon	2-5
08.09.04	Vietnam-South Korea	1-2
13.10.04	Lebanon-South Korea	1-1
13.10.04	Maldives-Vietnam	3-0
17.11.04	Lebanon-Vietnam	0-0
17.11.04	South Korea-Maldives	2-0

Group 8

Nov 17 - Jakarta
Indonesia 3 (Jaya 20, 47, 59)
Turkmenistan 1 (Durdiyev 25)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Shaban (Kuw)

Nov 17 - Dammam
Saudi Arabia 3 (Al-Harti 6, Al-Shlhoob pen 45, Fallata 65)
Sri Lanka 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Muflah (Oma)
Sent off: Fuard (Sri Lanka) 53min
Saudi Arabia: Al-Eisa - Jahdali, Al-Montasheri (Al-Thagafi 86), Al-Saeed, Fallata, Fallatah, Al-Harti (Al-Bishi 58), Al-Jassam, Al-Abduliha, Khojah, Al-Shlhoob (Al-Mohammedi 69).

GROUP 8 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saudi Arabia	6	6	0	0	14	1	18
Turkmenistan	6	2	1	3	8	10	7
Indonesia	6	2	1	3	8	12	7
Sri Lanka	6	0	2	4	4	11	2

18.02.04	Saudi Arabia-Indonesia	3-0
18.02.04	Turkmenistan-Sri Lanka	2-0
31.03.04	Sri Lanka-Saudi Arabia	0-1
31.03.04	Turkmenistan-Indonesia	3-1
09.06.04	Indonesia-Sri Lanka	1-0
09.06.04	Saudi Arabia-Turkmenistan	3-0
08.09.04	Sri Lanka-Indonesia	2-2
08.09.04	Turkmenistan-Saudi Arabia	0-1
09.10.04	Sri Lanka-Turkmenistan	2-2
12.10.04	Indonesia-Saudi Arabia	1-3
17.11.04	Indonesia-Turkmenistan	3-1
17.11.04	Saudi Arabia-Sri Lanka	3-0

Group winners advance to 2nd stage

2nd stage

The eight qualifiers are divided into two groups of four. The winners and runners-up of these groups qualify for finals. The two third-placed sides meet in a two-leg play-off, the winner of which meets the fourth-placed CONCACAF team over two legs for a place in finals

2nd stage matchdays: Feb 9, Mar 26, Mar 31, June 4, June 11, Aug 17 - all 2005

Asian play-off matchdays: Sep 3 (1st leg), Oct 8 (2nd leg) - 2005

CONCACAF

3.5 finals berths

2nd stage

Group 1

Nov 17 - Panama City
Panama 3 (Brown pen 4, Baloy 7, Garces 21)
El Salvador 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 9,502. **Ref:** Archundia (Mex)
Panama: Gonzalez - Rivera, Moreno, J A Torres, Baloy, Phillips (Julio Dely Valdes 83), Blanco, Mitre, Medina, Brown (Jorge Dely Valdes 29), Garces (Perez 74).

El Salvador: Alfaro - V Velasquez, Prado, Benitez, J Castro, Umanzor, Cabrera (Alvarez 46), Rodriguez, Pedrozo (F Gonzalez 74), Cerritos, Corrales (Alas 33).

Nov 17 - Columbus
United States 1 (Johnson 15)
Jamaica 1 (A Williams pen 26)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 9,088. **Ref:** Navarro (Can)
United States: Keller - Albright, Onyewu, Sanneh, Gibbs, Mastroeni, Corrales (Dempsey 66), Ralston (Spector 77), Donovan, McBride, Johnson (Twellman 88). *Sent off: Onyewu 77min.*
Jamaica: Ricketts - Ziadie, Stewart (Hue 24), Goodison, Gardner, Marshall, J Lawrence, A Williams, Whitmore (Euell 71), Ralph (King 68), Fuller.

GROUP 1 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
United States	6	3	3	0	13	3	12
Panama	6	2	2	2	8	11	8
Jamaica	6	1	4	1	7	5	7
El Salvador	6	1	1	4	2	11	4

18.08.04	El Salvador-Panama	2-1
18.08.04	Jamaica-United States	1-1
04.09.04	Jamaica-Panama	1-2
04.09.04	United States-El Salvador	2-0
08.09.04	El Salvador-Jamaica	0-3
08.09.04	Panama-United States	1-1
09.10.04	El Salvador-United States	0-2
09.10.04	Panama-Jamaica	1-1
13.10.04	Jamaica-El Salvador	0-0
13.10.04	United States-Panama	6-0
17.11.04	Panama-El Salvador	3-0
17.11.04	United States-Jamaica	1-1

Group 2

Nov 17 - Guatemala City
Guatemala 0
Canada 1 (De Rosario 57)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Rodriguez (Mex)
Guatemala: Klee - G Cabrera, Melgar, E Cabrera, Sanabria, Thompson (Castillo 65), Rodriguez, Romero, Ramirez, Plata (Pezzarossi 46), Ruiz. *Sent off: G Cabrera 66min.*
Canada: Hirschfeld - Gervais, McKenna, Serioux (Pozniak 75), Bernier, Occean, Hutchinson, Peters, Simpson, De Rosario, Grande. *Sent off: Occean 71min.*

Nov 17 - San Pedro Sula
Honduras 0
Costa Rica 0
Att: 18,000. **Ref:** Sibrian (ElS)
Honduras: Coello - Beata, Vallecillo, Mendoza (Hernandez 90), Sabillon (E Martinez 86), Figueroa, Guevara, Guerrero, Carcamo (J Palacios 65), Turcios, S Martinez.
Costa Rica: Mesen - Wallace, Marin, Chinchilla, L Gonzalez, Badilla, Bryce (G Martinez 83), A Solis (Centeno 59), Lopez, Herron (Hernandez 75), Wanchope.

GROUP 2 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Costa Rica	6	3	1	2	12	8	10
Guatemala	6	3	1	2	7	9	10
Honduras	6	1	4	1	9	7	7
Canada	6	1	2	3	4	8	5

18.08.04	Canada-Guatemala	0-2
18.08.04	Costa Rica-Honduras	2-5
04.09.04	Canada-Honduras	1-1
05.09.04	Guatemala-Costa Rica	2-1
08.09.04	Costa Rica-Canada	1-0
08.09.04	Honduras-Guatemala	2-2
09.10.04	Costa Rica-Guatemala	5-0
09.10.04	Honduras-Canada	1-1
13.10.04	Canada-Costa Rica	1-3
13.10.04	Guatemala-Honduras	1-0
17.11.04	Guatemala-Canada	0-1
17.11.04	Honduras-Costa Rica	0-0

Group 3

Nov 13 - Miami, USA
St Kitts & Nevis 0
Mexico 5 (Altamirano 31, Fonseca 40, 57, 90, Santana 49)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 18,312. **Ref:** Moreno (Pan)
St Kitts & Nevis: Jones - Richards, Harris, G Isaac, Sargeant (Jarvis 66), J Francis, Meade, A Riley, Leader, Gomez (S Isaac 65), Cannonier (T Riley 67).
Mexico: Munoz - Altamirano, F Rodriguez, Galindo, Pineda, Olalde (A Medina 64), Juan P Rodriguez, R Garcia (Valdez 78), M Perez (Osorno 66), Santana, Fonseca.

Nov 17 - Monterrey
Mexico 8 (Altamirano pen 10, L Perez 21, 49, 78, Fonseca 47, 56, Osorno 52, Santana 67)
St Kitts & Nevis 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Stott (USA)
Mexico: Munoz - Altamirano, F Rodriguez, H Sanchez, Pineda, M Perez (Osorno 31), Juan P Rodriguez, L Perez, R Garcia (Santana 58), Olalde (A Medina 46), Fonseca.
St Kitts & Nevis: Jones - Richards (S Isaac 52), Harris, Leader (Rogers 71), A Riley, Cannonier, G Isaac, Gomez, Sargeant (T Riley 55), Meade, J Francis.

Nov 17 - Port-of-Spain
Trinidad & Tobago 2 (Sam 84, Eve 90)
St Vincent & The Grenadines 1 (Haynes 49)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Batres (Gtm)
Trinidad & Tobago: Ince - A John, Cox, M Andrews, Sancho, MacFarlane (Sam 69), Nixon (Sealey 78), Rahim (Eve 69), Rougier, Lawrence, Jones. *Sent off: A John 90min.*
St Vincent & The Grenadines: Andrews - C Huggins, M Forde, Hendrickson (Joseph 62), M Charles, W John, Velox, Ballantyne, Guy, S Samuel (Gonsalves 75), James (Haynes 46). *Sent off: M Charles 89min.*

GROUP 3 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	6	6	0	0	27	1	18
Trinidad & Tob	6	4	0	2	12	9	12
St Vincent/Gren	6	2	0	4	5	12	6
St Kitts & Nevis	6	0	0	6	2	24	0

18.08.04	St Vincent/Gren-Trin & Tob	0-2
04.09.04	St Kitts & Nev-Trinidad & Tob	1-2
08.09.04	Trinidad & Tobago-Mexico	1-3
10.09.04	St Vincent/Gren-St Kitts & N	1-0
06.10.04	Mexico-St Vincent/Gren	7-0
10.10.04	St Vincent/Gren-Mexico	0-1
10.10.04	Trinidad & Tob-St Kitts & Nev	5-1
13.10.04	Mexico-Trinidad & Tobago	3-0
13.10.04	St Kitts & N-St Vincent/Gren	0-3
13.11.04	St Kitts & Nevis-Mexico	0-5
17.11.04	Mexico-St Kitts & Nevis	8-0
17.11.04	Trin & Tob-St Vincent/Gren	2-1

Top two from each group advance to 3rd stage

3rd stage

09.02.05	Costa Rica-Mexico
09.02.05	Panama-Guatemala
09.02.05	Trinidad & Tobago-United States
26/27.03.05	Costa Rica-Panama
26/27.03.05	Guatemala-Trinidad & Tobago
26/27.03.05	Mexico-United States
30.03.05	Panama-Mexico
30.03.05	Trinidad & Tobago-Costa Rica
30.03.05	United States-Guatemala
04/05.06.05	Guatemala-Mexico
04/05.06.05	Trinidad & Tobago-Panama
04/05.06.05	United States-Costa Rica
08.06.05	Costa Rica-Guatemala
08.06.05	Mexico-Trinidad & Tobago
08.06.05	Panama-United States
17.08.05	Guatemala-Panama
17.08.05	Mexico-Costa Rica
17.08.05	United States-Trinidad & Tobago
03/04.09.05	Panama-Costa Rica
03/04.09.05	Trinidad & Tobago-Guatemala
03/04.09.05	United States-Mexico
07.09.05	Costa Rica-Trinidad & Tobago
07.09.05	Guatemala-United States
07.09.05	Mexico-Panama
08/09.10.05	Costa Rica-United States
08/09.10.05	Mexico-Guatemala
08/09.10.05	Panama-Trinidad & Tobago
12.10.05	Guatemala-Costa Rica
12.10.05	Trinidad & Tobago-Mexico
12.10.05	United States-Panama

Top three qualify for finals. The fourth-placed team meet the winners of the Asian play-off over two legs for a place in finals

EUROPE

14 finals berths (including hosts Germany, who qualify automatically)

Group 1

Nov 17 - Barcelona, Spain
Andorra 0
Holland 3 (Cocu 21, Robben 31, Sneijder 77)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Yefet (Isr)
Andorra: Koldo - Txema, I Lima, Fernandez, Escura, A Lima, Jimenez (Ayala 77), Ruiz Gonzalez, Silva (J Sanchez 73), Sonejee, Sivera (Garcia 87).
Holland: Van der Sar - Melchiot, Ooijer, Cocu (Mathijsen 82), Van Bronckhorst, Landzaat, Van Galen (Van Hooijdonk 68), Sneijder, Robben, Kuijt, Van Nistelrooy (Makaay 36).

Nov 17 - Yerevan
Armenia 1 (K Dokhoyan 63)
Romania 1 (Marica 28)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)
Armenia: Bete - Hovsepyan, Vardanyan, K Dokhoyan, Tadevosian, Mkhitarian, Nazaryan, Shakhgeldyan (K Aleksanyan 88), Grigoryan (Aghvan Mkrtchyan 74), Voskanyan (Arman Karamian 77), Manucharyan.
Romania: Stelea - Stoican, Barcauan, F Moldovan, Dancia, Cernat (Maldarasanu 63), Tararache, Paraschiv (Bratu 76), Caramarin (Dica 46), Marica, Neaga.

Nov 17 - Skopje
Macedonia 0
Czech Republic 2 (Lokvenc 88, Koller 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 11,500. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
Macedonia: Milosevski - I Mitreski, Sedloski, Bozinovski, Noveski, Vasovski, A Mitreski, Krstev (Jancevski 46), Pandev, Sakiri (Ignatov 77), Cadikovski (Stojkov 65).
Czech Republic: Cech - Grygera (Lokvenc 77), Bolf, Ujfalusi, Jankulovski, Poborsky, Galasek, Rosicky, Vachousek (Jun 60), Koller, Baros (Heinz 16).

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	4	3	1	0	10	3	10
Romania	5	3	1	1	10	5	10
Finland	5	3	0	2	10	6	9
Czech Republic	4	3	0	1	6	2	9
Macedonia	5	1	1	3	6	7	4
Andorra	4	1	0	3	2	11	3
Armenia	5	0	1	4	2	12	1

18.08.04	Macedonia-Armenia	3-0
18.08.04	Romania-Finland	2-1
04.09.04	Finland-Andorra	3-0
04.09.04	Romania-Macedonia	2-1
08.09.04	Andorra-Romania	1-5
08.09.04	Armenia-Finland	0-2
08.09.04	Holland-Czech Republic	2-0
09.10.04	Czech Republic-Romania	1-0
09.10.04	Finland-Armenia	3-1
09.10.04	Macedonia-Holland	2-2
13.10.04	Andorra-Macedonia	1-0
13.10.04	Armenia-Czech Republic	0-3
13.10.04	Holland-Finland	3-1
17.11.04	Andorra-Holland	0-3
17.11.04	Armenia-Romania	1-1
17.11.04	Macedonia-Czech Republic	0-2
09.02.05	Macedonia-Andorra
26.03.05	Armenia-Andorra
26.03.05	Czech Republic-Finland
26.03.05	Romania-Holland
30.03.05	Andorra-Czech Republic
30.03.05	Holland-Armenia
30.03.05	Macedonia-Romania
04.06.05	Armenia-Macedonia
04.06.05	Czech Republic-Andorra
04.06.05	Holland-Romania
08.06.05	Czech Republic-Macedonia
08.06.05	Finland-Holland
08.06.05	Romania-Armenia
17.08.05	Macedonia-Finland
17.08.05	Romania-Andorra
03.09.05	Andorra-Finland
03.09.05	Armenia-Holland
03.09.05	Romania-Czech Republic
07.09.05	Czech Republic-Armenia
07.09.05	Finland-Macedonia
07.09.05	Holland-Andorra
08.10.05	Czech Republic-Holland
08.10.05	Finland-Romania
12.10.05	Andorra-Armenia
12.10.05	Finland-Czech Republic
12.10.05	Holland-Macedonia

Group 2

Nov 17 - Tbilisi
Georgia 2 (Demetradze 33, Asatiani 74)
Denmark 2 (Tomasson 9, 64)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Ceferin (Sln)
Georgia: Devadze - Khizanishvili, Khizaneishvili, Kaladze, Mjavanadze, Jikia (Kvirkvelia 72), Tskitishvili, Kobiashvili, Asatiani, A Iashvili (S Arveladze 72), Demetradze.
Denmark: Sorensen - Poulsen, Priske, Kroldrup, N Jensen, Lustu, Gravesen, D Jensen (Skoubo 88), Tomasson, Jorgensen (Lovenkrands 88), Perez (Rommedahl 46).

Nov 17 - Athens
Greece 3 (Haristeas 24, 45, Katsouranis 86)
Kazakhstan 1 (Baltiyev pen 87)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Kostadinov (Bul)
Greece: Nikopolidis - Seitaridis, Dellas, Kapsis (Katsouranis 60), Fissas, Basinas, Zagorakis (Kafes 70), Tsiartas (Georgiadis 72), Karagounis, Haristeas, Vryzas.
Kazakhstan: Novikov - Lyapkin, Dubinsky, Smakov, Karpovits, Buleshev (Shevchenko 66), Baltiyev, Chichulin, Irismetov, Urazbakhtin (Radionov 53), Zhalmagambetov (Kamelov 68).

Nov 17 - Istanbul
Turkey 0
Ukraine 3 (Husiev 9, Shevchenko 17, 89)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 52,000. **Ref:** Cortez Batista (Por)
Turkey: Rustu - Tolga, Servet (Tuncay 28), Emre Belozoglu, Umit Ozat, Okan Buruk, Gokdeniz (Basturk 54), Deniz, Huseyin (Necati 66), Fatih Tekke, Nihat.
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi - Nesmachnyi, Fedorov, Yezerskyi, Rusol, Shelaiev, Husiev, Husin, Voronin (Rykun 61), Vorobei (Dmytrulin 75), Shevchenko (Nazarenko 90).

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	5	3	2	0	9	3	11
Denmark	4	1	3	0	6	4	6
Turkey	5	1	3	1	6	5	6
Albania	4	2	0	2	3	5	6
Greece	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
Georgia	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Kazakhstan	4	0	0	4	2	10	0

04.09.04	Albania-Greece	2-1
04.09.04	Denmark-Ukraine	1-1
04.09.04	Turkey-Georgia	1-1
08.09.04	Georgia-Albania	2-0
08.09.04	Greece-Turkey	0-0
08.09.04	Kazakhstan-Ukraine	1-2
09.10.04	Albania-Denmark	0-2
09.10.04	Turkey-Kazakhstan	4-0
09.10.04	Ukraine-Greece	1-1
13.10.04	Denmark-Turkey	1-1
13.10.04	Kazakhstan-Albania	0-1
13.10.04	Ukraine-Georgia	2-0
17.11.04	Georgia-Denmark	2-2
17.11.04	Greece-Kazakhstan	3-1
17.11.04	Turkey-Ukraine	0-3
09.02.05	Albania-Ukraine
09.02.05	Greece-Denmark
26.03.05	Denmark-Kazakhstan
26.03.05	Georgia-Greece
26.03.05	Turkey-Albania
30.03.05	Georgia-Turkey
30.03.05	Greece-Albania
30.03.05	Ukraine-Denmark
04.06.05	Albania-Georgia
04.06.05	Turkey-Greece
04.06.05	Ukraine-Kazakhstan
08.06.05	Denmark-Albania
08.06.05	Greece-Ukraine
08.06.05	Kazakhstan-Turkey
17.08.05	Kazakhstan-Georgia
03.09.05	Albania-Kazakhstan
03.09.05	Georgia-Ukraine
03.09.05	Turkey-Denmark
07.09.05	Denmark-Georgia
07.09.05	Kazakhstan-Greece
07.09.05	Ukraine-Turkey
08.10.05	Denmark-Greece
08.10.05	Georgia-Kazakhstan
08.10.05	Ukraine-Albania
12.10.05	Albania-Turkey
12.10.05	Greece-Georgia
12.10.05	Kazakhstan-Denmark

Group 3

Nov 17 - Vaduz
Liechtenstein 1 (M Frick 31)
Latvia 3 (Verpakovskis 7, Zemlinskis pen 57, Prohorenkovs 89)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 1,500. **Ref:** Szabo (Hun)
Liechtenstein: Jehle - Vogt (R Buchel 88), Michael Stocklasa, Hasler, Ritter, Martin Stocklasa, R Beck (Rohrer 65), Gerster (D Frick 82), T Beck, M Frick, F Burgmeier.
Latvia: Kolinko - Isakovs, Stepanovs, Zemlinskis, Zirnis, Astafjevs, Bleidelis, Laizans, Rubins (Zakresevskis 90), Rimkus (Prohorenkovs 59), Verpakovskis.

Nov 17 - Luxembourg
Luxembourg 0
Portugal 5 (Federspiel og 10, Cristiano Ronaldo 27, Maniche 51, Pauleta 66, pen 82)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 8,300. **Ref:** Godulyan (Ukr)
Luxembourg: Besic - Federspiel, Reiter, Hoffmann, Schauls, Remy, Peters, A Leweck, Mannon (Di Domenico 77), C Leweck, Huss (Collette 77).
Portugal: Ricardo - Paulo Ferreira, Ricardo Carvalho, Jorge Andrade, Jorge Ribeiro, Costinha (Petit 58), Deco (Tiago 71), Maniche, Cristiano Ronaldo, Pauleta, Boa Morte (Ricardo Quaresma 46).

Nov 17 - Krasnodar
Russia 4 (Karyaka 25, Izmailov 27, Sychev 34, Loskov pen 69)
Estonia 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Busacca (Swi)
Russia: Malafeev - Evseev, Bugaev, Smertin, A Berezutsky, Izmailov, Khokhlov (Gusev 87), Loskov (Semshov 82), Karyaka, Kerzhakov, Sychev.
Estonia: Kaalma - Allas, Jaager, Piiroja, U Rooba, Rahn, Teever (Kruglov 90), Lindpere, Viikmae, Oper, Terehhov (Klavan 82).

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	5	4	1	0	20	3	13
Slovakia	4	3	1	0	15	3	10
Russia	4	2	1	1	10	8	7
Latvia	5	2	1	2	10	12	7
Estonia	5	2	1	2	8	11	7
Liechtenstein	5	1	1	3	8	14	4
Luxembourg	6	0	0	6	4	24	0

18.08.04 Liechtenstein-Estonia 1-2
18.08.04 Slovakia-Luxembourg 3-1
04.09.04 Estonia-Luxembourg 4-0
04.09.04 Latvia-Portugal 0-2
04.09.04 Russia-Slovakia 1-1
08.09.04 Luxembourg-Latvia 3-4
08.09.04 Portugal-Estonia 4-0
08.09.04 Slovakia-Liechtenstein 7-0
09.10.04 Liechtenstein-Portugal 2-2
09.10.04 Luxembourg-Russia 0-4
09.10.04 Slovakia-Latvia 4-1
13.10.04 Latvia-Estonia 2-2
13.10.04 Luxembourg-Liechtenstein 0-4
13.10.04 Portugal-Russia 7-1
17.11.04 Liechtenstein-Latvia 1-3
17.11.04 Luxembourg-Portugal 0-5
17.11.04 Russia-Estonia 4-0
26.03.05 Estonia-Slovakia
26.03.05 Liechtenstein-Russia
30.03.05 Estonia-Russia
30.03.05 Latvia-Luxembourg
30.03.05 Slovakia-Portugal
04.06.05 Estonia-Liechtenstein
04.06.05 Portugal-Slovakia
04.06.05 Russia-Latvia
08.06.05 Estonia-Portugal
08.06.05 Latvia-Liechtenstein
08.06.05 Luxembourg-Slovakia
17.08.05 Latvia-Russia
17.08.05 Liechtenstein-Slovakia
03.09.05 Estonia-Latvia
03.09.05 Portugal-Luxembourg
03.09.05 Russia-Liechtenstein
07.09.05 Latvia-Slovakia
07.09.05 Liechtenstein-Luxembourg
07.09.05 Russia-Portugal
08.10.05 Portugal-Liechtenstein
08.10.05 Russia-Luxembourg
08.10.05 Slovakia-Estonia
12.10.05 Luxembourg-Estonia
12.10.05 Portugal-Latvia
12.10.05 Slovakia-Russia

Group 4

Nov 17 - Nicosia
Cyprus 1 (Okkas 45)
Israel 2 (Keisi 17, Nimni 86)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 3,500. **Ref:** Kaldma (Est)
Cyprus: N Panayiotou - S Georgiou (Goumenos 69), Okkarides, Kakoyiannis, Elia, Charalambidis (Neophytou 84), Charalambous, Makrides, Kaiafas, M Constantinou, Okkas (Yiasoumi 55).
Israel: Davidovich - Benado, Ben-Haim, Keisi, Balili (Golan 52), Nimni, Badir, Benayoun, Afek (Revivo 79), Katan (Suan 65), Saban.

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	4	2	2	0	4	0	8
Rep Ireland	4	2	2	0	6	1	8
Israel	4	2	2	0	6	4	8
Switzerland	3	1	2	0	9	3	5
Faroe Islands	4	0	1	3	2	12	1
Cyprus	5	0	1	4	4	11	1

04.09.04 France-Israel 0-0
04.09.04 Rep Ireland-Cyprus 3-0
04.09.04 Switzerland-Faroe Islands 6-0
08.09.04 Faroe Islands-France 0-2
08.09.04 Israel-Cyprus 2-1
08.09.04 Switzerland-Rep Ireland 1-1
09.10.04 Cyprus-Faroe Islands 2-2
09.10.04 France-Rep Ireland 0-0
09.10.04 Israel-Switzerland 2-2
13.10.04 Cyprus-France 0-2
13.10.04 Rep Ireland-Faroe Islands 2-0
17.11.04 Cyprus-Israel 1-2
26.03.05 Israel-Rep Ireland
26.03.05 France-Switzerland
30.03.05 Israel-France
30.03.05 Switzerland-Cyprus
04.06.05 Faroe Islands-Switzerland
04.06.05 Rep Ireland-Israel
08.06.05 Faroe Islands-Rep Ireland
17.08.05 Faroe Islands-Cyprus
03.09.05 France-Faroe Islands
03.09.05 Switzerland-Israel
07.09.05 Cyprus-Switzerland
07.09.05 Faroe Islands-Israel
07.09.05 Rep Ireland-France
08.10.05 Cyprus-Rep Ireland
08.10.05 Switzerland-France
08.10.05 Israel-Faroe Islands
12.10.05 France-Cyprus
12.10.05 Rep Ireland-Switzerland

Group 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	4	3	0	1	7	5	9
Norway	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Slovenia	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Belarus	3	1	1	1	8	5	4
Scotland	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Moldova	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

04.09.04 Italy-Norway 2-1
04.09.04 Slovenia-Moldova 3-0
08.09.04 Moldova-Italy 0-1
08.09.04 Norway-Belarus 1-1
08.09.04 Scotland-Slovenia 0-0
09.10.04 Belarus-Moldova 4-0
09.10.04 Scotland-Norway 0-1
09.10.04 Slovenia-Italy 1-0
13.10.04 Italy-Belarus 4-3
13.10.04 Moldova-Scotland 1-1
13.10.04 Norway-Slovenia 3-0
26.03.05 Italy-Scotland
30.03.05 Moldova-Norway
30.03.05 Slovenia-Belarus
04.06.05 Belarus-Slovenia
04.06.05 Norway-Italy
04.06.05 Scotland-Moldova
08.06.05 Belarus-Scotland
03.09.05 Moldova-Belarus
03.09.05 Scotland-Italy
03.09.05 Slovenia-Norway
07.09.05 Belarus-Italy
07.09.05 Moldova-Slovenia
07.09.05 Norway-Scotland
08.10.05 Italy-Slovenia
08.10.05 Norway-Moldova
08.10.05 Scotland-Belarus
12.10.05 Belarus-Norway
12.10.05 Italy-Moldova
12.10.05 Slovenia-Scotland

Group 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	4	3	1	0	7	3	10
Poland	4	3	0	1	10	5	9
Austria	4	1	2	1	8	8	5
N Ireland	4	0	3	1	5	8	3
Wales	4	0	2	2	5	8	2
Azerbaijan	4	0	2	2	1	4	2

04.09.04 Austria-England 2-2
04.09.04 Azerbaijan-Wales 1-1
04.09.04 Northern Ireland-Poland 0-3
08.09.04 Austria-Azerbaijan 2-0
08.09.04 Poland-England 1-2
08.09.04 Wales-Northern Ireland 2-2
09.10.04 Austria-Poland 1-3
09.10.04 Azerbaijan-Northern Ireland 0-0
09.10.04 England-Wales 2-0
13.10.04 Azerbaijan-England 0-1
13.10.04 Northern Ireland-Austria 3-3
13.10.04 Wales-Poland 2-3
26.03.05 England-Northern Ireland
26.03.05 Poland-Azerbaijan
26.03.05 Wales-Austria
30.03.05 Austria-Wales
30.03.05 England-Azerbaijan
30.03.05 Poland-Northern Ireland
04.06.05 Azerbaijan-Poland
03.09.05 Northern Ireland-Azerbaijan
03.09.05 Poland-Austria
03.09.05 Wales-England
07.09.05 Azerbaijan-Austria
07.09.05 Northern Ireland-England
07.09.05 Poland-Wales
08.10.05 England-Austria
08.10.05 Northern Ireland-Wales
12.10.05 Austria-Northern Ireland
12.10.05 England-Poland
12.10.05 Wales-Azerbaijan

Group 7

Nov 17 - Brussels
Belgium 0
Serbia & Montenegro 2 (Vukic 7, Kezman 59)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 32,000. **Ref:** Frojdfeldt (Swe)
Belgium: Proto - Deschacht (Daerden 27), De Cock, Kompany, Simons, Van der Heyden, Baseggio, Bisconti (Pieroni 58), Clement, Buffel, Sonck (Huysegems 65).
Serbia & Montenegro: Jevric - Dragutinovic, M Markovic, Gavrancic, Vidic, D Stankovic, Vukic, Koroman (Duljaj 56), Mladenovic (N Djordjevic 78), P Djordjevic, Milosevic (Kezman 29).

Nov 17 - Serravalle
San Marino 0
Lithuania 1 (D Cesnauskis 41)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,457. **Ref:** Nalbandyan (Arm)
San Marino: F Gasperoni - C Valentini, Michele Marani, S Bacciocchi, Della Valle, Albani, Muccioli (Domeniconi 67), A Gasperoni, De Luigi (Bonifazi 82), A Selva (Ciacchi 57), Vannucci.
Lithuania: Karcemarskas - Stankevicius, Dziaukstas, Skarbalius, Zvirgzdauskas, Semberas, Gedgaudas (Vencevicius 86), E Cesnauskis (Mikoliunas 76), D Cesnauskis, Danilevicius, Radzinevicius (Morinas 46).

GROUP 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Serbia & M'gro	4	3	1	0	10	0	10
Lithuania	4	2	2	0	6	1	8
Spain	3	1	2	0	3	1	5
Bosnia-Herz	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Belgium	3	0	1	2	1	5	1
San Marino	4	0	0	4	0	13	0

04.09.04 Belgium-Lithuania 1-1
04.09.04 San Marino-Serbia & M'negro . 0-3
08.09.04 Bosnia-Herzegovina-Spain 1-1
08.09.04 Lithuania-San Marino 4-0
09.10.04 Bosnia-Herz.-Serbia & M'negro 0-0
09.10.04 Spain-Belgium 2-0
13.10.04 Lithuania-Spain 0-0
13.10.04 Serbia & M'negro-San Marino . 5-0
17.11.04 Belgium-Serbia & M'negro 0-2
17.11.04 San Marino-Lithuania 0-1
09.02.05 Spain-San Marino
26.03.05 Belgium-Bosnia-Herzegovina
30.03.05 Bosnia-Herzegovina-Lithuania
30.03.05 San Marino-Belgium
30.03.05 Serbia & M'negro-Spain
04.06.05 San Marino-Bosnia-Herzegovina
04.06.05 Serbia & M'negro-Belgium
04.06.05 Spain-Lithuania
08.06.05 Spain-Bosnia-Herzegovina
03.09.05 Bosnia-Herzegovina-Belgium
03.09.05 Serbia & M'negro-Lithuania
07.09.05 Belgium-San Marino
07.09.05 Lithuania-Bosnia-Herzegovina
07.09.05 Spain-Serbia & M'negro
08.10.05 Belgium-Spain
08.10.05 Bosnia-Herzegovina-San Marino
08.10.05 Lithuania-Serbia & M'negro
12.10.05 Lithuania-Belgium
12.10.05 San Marino-Spain
12.10.05 Serbia & M'negro-Bosnia-Herz.

Group 8

Nov 17 - Valletta
Malta 0
Hungary 2 (Gera 39, P Kovacs 90)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Asumaa (Fin)
Malta: Haber - Ciantar, Azzopardi, Briffa, Said, Dimech, Agius (Barbara 86), Giglio, Michael Mifsud, Woods (Cohen 73), Mattocks (Galea 60).
Hungary: Kiraly - Rosa (Gyepes 90), Huszti, Juhasz, Stark, Hajnal, Feher, Gera, Dardai, Waltner (Lipcsei 79), Torghelle (P Kovacs 66).

GROUP 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	4	3	0	1	14	2	9
Bulgaria	3	2	1	0	9	4	7
Croatia	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Hungary	4	2	0	2	5	8	6
Iceland	4	0	1	3	4	10	1
Malta	4	0	1	3	1	13	1

04.09.04 Croatia-Hungary 3-0
04.09.04 Iceland-Bulgaria 1-3
04.09.04 Malta-Sweden 0-7
08.09.04 Hungary-Iceland 3-2
08.09.04 Sweden-Croatia 0-1
09.10.04 Croatia-Bulgaria 2-2
09.10.04 Malta-Iceland 0-0
09.10.04 Sweden-Hungary 3-0
13.10.04 Bulgaria-Malta 4-1
13.10.04 Iceland-Sweden 1-4
17.11.04 Malta-Hungary 0-2
26.03.05 Bulgaria-Sweden
26.03.05 Croatia-Iceland
30.03.05 Croatia-Malta
30.03.05 Hungary-Bulgaria
04.06.05 Bulgaria-Croatia
04.06.05 Iceland-Hungary
04.06.05 Sweden-Malta
08.06.05 Iceland-Malta
03.09.05 Hungary-Malta
03.09.05 Iceland-Croatia
03.09.05 Sweden-Bulgaria
07.09.05 Bulgaria-Iceland
07.09.05 Hungary-Sweden
07.09.05 Malta-Croatia
08.10.05 Bulgaria-Hungary
08.10.05 Croatia-Sweden
12.10.05 Hungary-Croatia
12.10.05 Malta-Bulgaria
12.10.05 Sweden-Iceland

Group winners and the two best runners-up qualify for finals. The other six runners-up are paired in three two-leg play-off matches, the winners of which also qualify for finals*
**Group runners-up will be ranked according to their results against the teams finishing 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th in their respective groups*

European play-off matchdays: Nov 12 (1st leg), Nov 16 (2nd leg) - 2005

OCEANIA

0.5 finals berths

3rd stage

Australia and the Solomon Islands meet in a two-leg play-off in September 2005, the winners of which meet the fifth-placed South American team over two legs for a place in finals

SOUTH AMERICA

4.5 finals berths

Nov 17 - Buenos Aires
Argentina 3 (Rey og 4, Riquelme 45, Saviola 66)
Venezuela 2 (Moran 33, Vielma 72)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Hidalgo (Per)
Argentina: Abbondanzieri - Zanetti, G Rodriguez, G Milito, Sorin, Mascherano, Cambiasso (Placente 79), Riquelme, Solari (L Gonzalez 65), C Delgado (Saviola 56), Figueroa.
Venezuela: Dudamel - Vallenilla, Rey, Cichero, Hernandez (Urdaneta 52), L Vera, Paez (Vielma 70), Jimenez (Casseres 72), Rojas, Arango, Moran.

Nov 17 - Barranquilla
Colombia 1 (Yepes 18)
Bolivia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Torres (Par)
Colombia: Calero - Perea, I Cordoba, Yepes, Viveros, J Restrepo, Grisales, Pacheco (Hernandez 76), Oviedo (Perez 61), Angel, Murillo (Ferreira 69).
Bolivia: L Fernandez - Jauregui, Alvarez, Arana, J M Pena (Arce 79), Raldes, Tufino (Vaca Diez 76), Cristaldo, L Gutierrez, Botero, Coimbra (Galindo 46).

Nov 17 - Quito
Ecuador 1 (Mendez 77)
Brazil 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Ruiz (Col)
Ecuador: Villafuerte - De la Cruz, G Espinoza, I Hurtado, Ambrossi, M Ayovi, E Tenorio, Mendez, Urrutia (Salas 46), Kaviedes (W Ayovi 74), Delgado (Reasco 90).
Brazil: Dida - Cafu, Juan, Roque Junior, Roberto Carlos, Renato, Juninho Pernambucano (Dudu Cearense 74), Kleberson (Ricardinho 65), Kaka (Adriano 80), Ronaldinho, Ronaldo.

Nov 17 - Lima
Peru 2 (Farfan 55, Guerrero 86)
Chile 1 (S Gonzalez 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Baldassi (Arg)
Peru: Ibanez - Jorge Soto, Rodriguez, Acasiete, Vargas, Solano, Jayo, Ciurlizza (C Zegarra 37; Villalta 63), Palacios, Pizarro (Guerrero 72), Farfan. *Sent off: Acasiete 41min.*
Chile: N Tapia - Alvarez, Contreras, Maldonado (Valdivia 75), Pinilla, Mark Gonzalez, Fuentes, Melendez, Valenzuela (L Gonzalez 46), Pizarro, Olarra (S Gonzalez 62). *Sent off: Melendez 41min.*

Nov 17 - Montevideo
Uruguay 1 (Montero 78)
Paraguay 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Simon (Bra)
Uruguay: Vera - Lopez, Lugano, Montero, G Rodriguez, Varela (Estoyanoff 58), Garcia, Delgado, Recoba (Sanchez 61), D Silva (R Morales 46), Chevanton.
Paraguay: Villar - Caniza, J C Caceres, Gamarra, Da Silva, E Barreto, A Ortiz, Paredes, Monges (Gavilan 82), Cardozo, Cuevas (Ramirez 81).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	11	6	4	1	21	11	22
Brazil	11	5	5	1	19	11	20
Paraguay	11	4	4	3	12	11	16
Ecuador	11	5	1	5	12	11	16
Uruguay	11	4	2	5	16	23	14
Chile	11	3	4	4	10	11	13
Colombia	11	3	4	4	12	11	13
Venezuela	11	4	1	6	13	17	13
Peru	11	3	4	4	13	13	13
Bolivia	11	3	1	7	11	20	10

06.09.03	Argentina-Chile	2-2
06.09.03	Ecuador-Venezuela	2-0
06.09.03	Peru-Paraguay	4-1
07.09.03	Colombia-Brazil	1-2
07.09.03	Uruguay-Bolivia	5-0
09.09.03	Chile-Peru	2-1
09.09.03	Venezuela-Argentina	0-3
10.09.03	Bolivia-Colombia	4-0
10.09.03	Brazil-Ecuador	1-0
10.09.03	Paraguay-Uruguay	4-1
15.11.03	Argentina-Bolivia	3-0
15.11.03	Colombia-Venezuela	0-1
15.11.03	Paraguay-Ecuador	2-1
15.11.03	Uruguay-Chile	2-1
16.11.03	Peru-Brazil	1-1
18.11.03	Chile-Paraguay	0-1
18.11.03	Venezuela-Bolivia	2-1
19.11.03	Brazil-Uruguay	3-3
19.11.03	Colombia-Argentina	1-1
19.11.03	Ecuador-Peru	0-0
30.03.04	Argentina-Ecuador	1-0
30.03.04	Bolivia-Chile	0-2
31.03.04	Paraguay-Brazil	0-0
31.03.04	Peru-Colombia	0-2
31.03.04	Uruguay-Venezuela	0-3
01.06.04	Bolivia-Paraguay	2-1
01.06.04	Uruguay-Peru	1-3
01.06.04	Venezuela-Chile	0-1
02.06.04	Brazil-Argentina	3-1
02.06.04	Ecuador-Colombia	2-1
05.06.04	Ecuador-Bolivia	3-2
06.06.04	Argentina-Paraguay	0-0
06.06.04	Chile-Brazil	1-1
06.06.04	Colombia-Uruguay	5-0
06.06.04	Peru-Venezuela	0-0
04.09.04	Peru-Argentina	1-3
05.09.04	Brazil-Bolivia	3-1
05.09.04	Chile-Colombia	0-0
05.09.04	Paraguay-Venezuela	1-0
05.09.04	Uruguay-Ecuador	1-0
09.10.04	Argentina-Uruguay	4-2
09.10.04	Bolivia-Peru	1-0
09.10.04	Colombia-Paraguay	1-1
09.10.04	Venezuela-Brazil	2-5
10.10.04	Ecuador-Chile	2-0
12.10.04	Bolivia-Uruguay	0-0
13.10.04	Brazil-Colombia	0-0
13.10.04	Chile-Argentina	0-0
13.10.04	Paraguay-Peru	1-1
14.10.04	Venezuela-Ecuador	3-1
17.11.04	Argentina-Venezuela	3-2
17.11.04	Colombia-Bolivia	1-0
17.11.04	Ecuador-Brazil	1-0
17.11.04	Peru-Chile	2-1
17.11.04	Uruguay-Paraguay	1-0
26/27.03.05	Bolivia-Argentina	
26/27.03.05	Brazil-Peru	
26/27.03.05	Chile-Uruguay	
26/27.03.05	Ecuador-Paraguay	
26/27.03.05	Venezuela-Colombia	
29/30.03.05	Argentina-Colombia	
29/30.03.05	Bolivia-Venezuela	
29/30.03.05	Paraguay-Chile	
29/30.03.05	Peru-Ecuador	
29/30.03.05	Uruguay-Brazil	
04/05.06.05	Brazil-Paraguay	
04/05.06.05	Chile-Bolivia	
04/05.06.05	Colombia-Peru	
04/05.06.05	Ecuador-Argentina	
04/05.06.05	Venezuela-Uruguay	
07/08.06.05	Argentina-Brazil	
07/08.06.05	Chile-Venezuela	
07/08.06.05	Colombia-Ecuador	
07/08.06.05	Paraguay-Bolivia	
07/08.06.05	Peru-Uruguay	
03/04.09.05	Bolivia-Ecuador	
03/04.09.05	Brazil-Chile	
03/04.09.05	Paraguay-Argentina	
03/04.09.05	Uruguay-Colombia	
03/04.09.05	Venezuela-Peru	
08/09.10.05	Argentina-Peru	
08/09.10.05	Bolivia-Brazil	
08/09.10.05	Colombia-Chile	
08/09.10.05	Ecuador-Uruguay	
08/09.10.05	Venezuela-Paraguay	
11/12.10.05	Brazil-Venezuela	
11/12.10.05	Chile-Ecuador	
11/12.10.05	Paraguay-Colombia	
11/12.10.05	Peru-Bolivia	
11/12.10.05	Uruguay-Argentina	

Top four qualify for finals; fifth-placed side enter a play-off against Oceania section winners for a place in finals

EUROPE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A
November 23

Monaco (Fra) 1 (Saviola 56)
Liverpool (Eng) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,500. **Ref:** Larsen (Den)
Monaco: Roma - Maicon, Squillaci, Givet, Evra, Farnerud (Modesto 79), Zikos, Plasil, Saviola (Adebayor 74), Nonda, Chevanton (Perez 68).
Liverpool: Kirkland - Finnan, Carragher, Hyypia, Traore (Kewell 59), Luis Garcia (Josemi 5; Warnock 65), Biscan, Hamann, Gerrard, Riise, Mellor.

Olympiakos (Gre) 1 (Djordjevic 68)
Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 33,000. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
Olympiakos: Nikopolidis - Pantos, Anatolakis, Schurrer, Venetidis, Kafes (Georgatos 86), Stoltidis, Djordjevic, Rivaldo (Maric 86), Giovanni, Okkas (Georgiadis 57).
Deportivo: Molina - Manuel Pablo, Cesar, Pablo Amo, Romero, Scaloni (Mauro Silva 78), Duscher (Pandiani 71), Munitis, Valeron, Fran (Changui 87), Luque.

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	5	3	1	1	4	2	10
Monaco	5	3	0	2	5	4	9
Liverpool	5	2	1	2	3	2	7
Dep La Coruna	5	0	2	3	0	4	2

Wed, December 8
Deportivo v Monaco
Liverpool v Olympiakos

Group B
November 23

Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr) 2 (Dellas og 73, Shatskikh 82)
Roma (Ita) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 57,000. **Ref:** Riley (Eng)
Dynamo: Shovkovskyi - Ghioane, Gavrancic, El-Kaddouri, Sablic, Husin, Husiev (Leko 65), Yussuf, Diogo Rincon, Kleber, Verpakovskis (Shatskikh 77).
Roma: Pelizzoli - Scurto, Dellas, Ferrari, Sartor (Cufre 77), Aquilani, Perrotta, Candela, Cassano, Hossam (D'Agostino 54), Corvia. *Sent off: Scurto 76min.*

Real Madrid (Spa) 1 (Raul 70)
Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 1 (Berbatov 36)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Real Madrid: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Ivan Helguera, Samuel, Roberto Carlos, Guti, Beckham (Morientes 54), Figo, Raul, Zidane, Ronaldo.
Leverkusen: Butt - Juan, Nowotny, Roque Junior, Schneider, Ramelow, Babic, Placente, Krzynowek (Freier 76), Voronin (Balitsch 83), Berbatov.

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kyiv Dynamo	5	3	1	1	11	5	10
B Leverkusen	5	2	2	1	10	7	8
Real Madrid	5	2	2	1	8	8	8
Roma	5	0	1	4	4	13	1

Wed, December 8
Leverkusen v Kyiv Dynamo
Roma v Real Madrid

Group C
November 23

Bayern Munich (Ger) 5 (Pizarro 12, Salihamidzic 37, Frings 44, Makaay 71, 80)
Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) 1 (Dego pen 55)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Medina Cantalejo (Spa)
Bayern: Kahn - Sagnol (Deisler 46), Lucio, Kovac, Salihamidzic, Hargreaves (Kuffour 36), Ballack, Frings, Schweinsteiger (Scholl 28), Makaay, Pizarro.
Maccabi: Strauber - Pantsil, Giovanini, Strool, Abo Siam, Mishaelof, T Cohen, L Cohen (Biton 71), Dego, Mesika (Reis 46), Addo (Mbamba 78).

Juventus (Ita) 1 (Zalayeta 15)
Ajax (Hol) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,865. **Ref:** Plautz (Aut)
Juventus: Buffon - Birindelli (Cannavaro 85), Thuram, Montero, Zambrotta, Camoranesi (Olivera 70), Emerson, Tacchinardi, Nedved, Ibrahimovic (Kapo 78), Zalayeta.
Ajax: Vonk - Trabelsi, Grygera, Escude, Maxwell, De Jong (Sneijder 70), Galasek, Van der Vaart, Boukhari (Mitea 59), Rosales, Babel (Anastasiou 79).

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	5	5	0	0	5	0	15
Bayern Munich	5	3	0	2	10	3	9
Ajax	5	1	0	4	4	8	3
Maccabi TA	5	1	0	4	3	11	3

Wed, December 8
Ajax v Bayern Munich
Maccabi Tel Aviv v Juventus

Group D
November 23

Manchester United (Eng) 2 (G Neville 19, Van Nistelrooy 53)
Lyon (Fra) 1 (Diarra 40)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 66,398. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Man Utd: Carroll - G Neville (Brown 46), Ferdinand, Silvestre, Heinze, Smith, Keane (Fortune 90), Scholes, Cristiano Ronaldo, Van Nistelrooy (Fletcher 71), Rooney.
Lyon: Puydebois - Reveillere, Diatta, Cris, Berthod, Essien, Diarra, Juninho, Govou (Wiltord 60), Nilmar (Malouda 72), Frau (Bergougnoux 72).

Sparta Prague (Cze) 0
Fenerbahce (Tur) 1 (Kovac og 20)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 11,500. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Sparta: Blazek - Vorisek, Petras, Kovac, Labant (Meduna 68), Resek (Pacanda 46), Sivok, Simak (Baranek 77), Urbanek, Zelenka, Jun.
Fenerbahce: Rustu (Volkan 46) - Kemal, Onder, Fabio Luciano, Umit (Fabiano 85), Mehmet, Marco Aurelio, Selcuk, Tuncay, Alex, Nobre.

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	5	3	2	0	14	6	11
Lyon	5	3	1	1	12	8	10
Fenerbahce	5	2	0	3	7	13	6
Sparta Prague	5	0	1	4	2	8	1

Wed, December 8
Fenerbahce v Manchester United
Lyon v Sparta Prague

Group E
November 24

PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 1 (Ooijer 9)
Arsenal (Eng) 1 (Henry 31)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Fandel (Ger)
PSV: Gomes - Ooijer, Alex, Bouma, Lee, Van Bommel, Vogel (Beasley 64), Cocu, Park, Farfan, Sibon.
Arsenal: Lehmann - Lauren, Toure, Campbell, Cole, Ljungberg, Vieira, Fabregas, Pires (Hoyte 67), Reyes (Van Persie 63; Flamini 82), Henry. *Sent off: Lauren 65min, Vieira 78min.*

Rosenborg (Nor) 2 (Helstad 68, 76)
Panathinaikos (Gre) 2 (Constantinou 16, Skacel 71)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,591. **Ref:** De Santis (Ita)
Rosenborg: E Johnsen - Dorsin, Hansen, Hoftun, Stensaas, Strand, Solli, Braaten (George 88), F Johnsen, Storflor (Helstad 56), Brattbakk.
Panathinaikos: Chalkias - Vintra, Kotsios, Henriksen, Kyrgiakos, Konstantinidis (Olisadebe 87), Maric (Mitu 76), Basinas, Skacel (Sapanis 82), Gonzalez, Constantinou.

GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	5	3	1	1	5	3	10
Arsenal	5	1	4	0	6	5	7
Panathinaikos	5	1	3	1	7	7	6
Rosenborg	5	0	2	3	5	8	2

Tue, December 7
Arsenal v Rosenborg
Panathinaikos v PSV

Group F
November 24

Barcelona (Spa) 1 (Eto'o 24)
Celtic (Sco) 1 (Hartson 45)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 74,190. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
Barcelona: Valdes - Belletti, Puyol, Oleguer, Silvinho (Van Bronckhorst 46), Deco, Marquez, Xavi, Giuly (Iniesta 60), Eto'o, Ronaldinho.
Celtic: Marshall - Agathe, Balde, Valgaeren, Varga (Camara 66), McNamara, Petrov, Lennon, Thompson (Wallace 87), Sutton, Hartson.

Milan (Ita) 4 (Kaka 52, 90, Crespo 53, 85)
Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)
Milan: Dida - Cafu, Nesta, Maldini, Costacurta, Gattuso (Brocchi 84), Pirlo (Ambrosini 72), Seedorf, Kaka, Rui Costa (Dhorasoo 79), Crespo.
Shakhtar: Lastuvka - Stoican, Hubschman, Lewandowski, Srna, Joao Batista (Vorobei 63), Duljaj, Matuzalem, Vukic (Pukanych 81), Brandao, Aghahowa (Marica 63).

GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	5	4	0	1	10	3	12
Barcelona	5	3	1	1	9	4	10
Celtic	5	1	1	3	4	10	4
Shakhtar	5	1	0	4	3	9	3

Tue, December 7
Celtic v Milan
Shakhtar v Barcelona

Group G
November 24

Anderlecht (Blg) 1 (Wilhelmsson 24)
Valencia (Spa) 2 (Corradi 19, Di Vaio 48)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 20,867. **Ref:** Ovrebo (Nor)
Anderlecht: Zitka - Zewlakow, Kompany, De Boeck (Mpenza 72), Deschacht, Wilhelmsson, Vanderhaeghe, Zetterberg, Baseggio, Dindane, Iachtchouk.
Valencia: Canizares - Curro Torres, Caneira, Navarro, Moretti, Rufete (Fiore 71), Sissoko, Baraja, Xisco (Carboni 82), Di Vaio (Mista 87), Corradi.

Werder Bremen (Ger) 1 (Ismael pen 49)
Internazionale (Ita) 1 (Martins 55)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 36,728. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Werder: Reinke - Pasanen, Baumann, Ismael, Stalteri (Haristeas 83), Borowski (Jensen 67), Ernst, Magnin, Micoud, Klose, Klasnic (Haedo Valdez 46).
Inter: Toldo - J Zanetti, Cordoba, Mihajlovic, Favalli, Van der Meyde, Cambiasso, Davids (C Zanetti 81), Stankovic (Karagounis 65), Cruz (Martins 52), Vieri.

GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	5	3	2	0	11	3	11
Werder Bremen	5	3	1	1	10	6	10
Valencia	5	2	1	2	6	8	7
Anderlecht	5	0	0	5	4	14	0

Tue, December 7
Inter v Anderlecht
Valencia v Werder Bremen

Group H
November 24

Chelsea (Eng) 0
Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) 0
Att: 39,626. **Ref:** Temmink (Hol)
Chelsea: Cudicini - Johnson, Gallas, Ricardo Carvalho, Bridge, Smertin, Parker, Lampard (Gudjohnsen 62), J Cole, Kezman (Drogba 62), Robben (Duff 46).
PSG: Letizi - Pichot, Pierre-Fanfan, Yepes, Armand, Mendy, Mbami, Cana, Cisse (Boskovic 83), Reinaldo (Coridon 77), Pauleta (Pancrate 89).

CSKA Moscow (Rus) 0
FC Porto (Por) 1 (McCarthy 28)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez (Spa)
CSKA: Akinfeev - Ignashevich, Semberas, A Berezutsky, Krasic (Gusev 70), Rahimic, Aldonin, Shirkov, Jarosik (Ferreyra 67), Vagner Love, Semak.
Porto: Nuno - Seitaridis, Jorge Costa, Pedro Emanuel, Ricardo Costa, Bosingwa, Costinha, Maniche, Ricardo Quaresma (Cesar Peixoto 59), McCarthy (Hugo Almeida 78), Derlei (Pepe 90).

GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	5	4	1	0	9	1	13
PSG	5	1	2	2	2	5	5
FC Porto	5	1	2	2	2	5	5
CSKA Moscow	5	1	1	3	2	4	4

Tue, December 7
Porto v Chelsea
PSG v CSKA Moscow

Top two from each group qualify for knockout stages; third-placed sides enter UEFA Cup

UEFA CUP

Group A
Nov 25: Basle (Swi) 1 (Carignano 77) **Hearts (Sco) 2** (Wyness 31, Neilson 89); **Schalke (Ger) 2** (Gyepes og 16, Kobiashvili 40) **Ferencvaros (Hun) 0.**
Dec 1: Ferencvaros 1 (Rosa 22) **Basle 2** (Rossi 59, Huggel 78); **Feyenoord (Hol) 2** (Kalou 32, 40) **Schalke 1** (Hanke 6).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Schalke	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Basle	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Hearts	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Ferencvaros	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

December 16
Basle v Feyenoord
Hearts v Ferencvaros

Group B
Nov 25: Standard Liege (Blg) 2 (Geraerts 54, Michel 90) **Parma (Ita) 1** (Pisanu 44); **Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 2** (Neaga 3, Ciocoiu 19) **Besiktas (Tur) 1** (Ibrahim 88).
Dec 1: Athletic Bilbao (Spa) 1 (Etxeberria 45) **Steaua Bucharest 0; Besiktas 1** (Okan 30) **Standard Liege 1** (Bangoura 81).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Athletic Bilbao	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Steaua	4	2	0	2	4	3	6
Besiktas	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Standard Liege	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Parma	3	1	0	2	2	4	3

December 16
Parma v Besiktas
Standard Liege v Athletic Bilbao

Group C
Nov 25: Club Brugge (Blg) 1 (Lange 62) **Utrecht (Hol) 0; Dnipro (Ukr) 1** (Nazarenko 20) **Austria Wien (Aut) 0.**
Dec 1: Austria Wien 1 (Gilewicz 50) **Club Brugge 1** (Lange 90); **Zaragoza (Spa) 2** (Savio 9, Generelo 73) **Dnipro 1** (Yezerskyi 2).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dnipro	4	3	0	1	7	5	9
Zaragoza	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Club Brugge	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Austria Wien	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Utrecht	3	0	0	3	1	5	0

December 16
Club Brugge v Zaragoza
Utrecht v Austria Wien

Group D
Nov 25: Dinamo Tbilisi (Geo) 0 Sporting Lisbon (Por) 4 (Liedson 6, 28, 59, Hugo Viana 90); **Sochaux (Fra) 0 Newcastle (Eng) 4** (Bowyer 29, Ameobi 46, Bellamy 76, Robert 90).
Dec 1: Panionios (Gre) 5 (Mantzios 58, 67, 77, Breska 90, Marcora 90) **Dinamo Tbilisi 2** (Kakaladze 38, Akhalaia 59); **Sporting Lisbon 0 Sochaux 1** (Lonfat 2).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	3	3	0	0	7	0	9
Sporting Lisbon	3	2	0	1	8	2	6
Sochaux	3	2	0	1	3	4	6
Panionios	3	1	0	2	6	7	3
Dinamo Tbilisi	4	0	0	4	2	13	0

December 16
Newcastle v Sporting Lisbon
Sochaux v Panionios

Group E
Nov 25: Lazio (Ita) 2 (Di Canio 52, Inzaghi 73) **Partizan Belgrade (Ser) 2** (Boya 6, 24); **Villarreal (Spa) 2** (Guayre 36, Javi Venta 75) **Middlesbrough (Eng) 0.**
Dec 2: Aigaleo (Gre) 2 (Chloros 9, Agritis 54) **Lazio 2** (Muzzi 13, 36); **Partizan Belgrade 1** (Tomic pen 65) **Villarreal 1** (Cazorla 17).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Partizan	3	1	2	0	7	3	5
Villarreal	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Lazio	4	0	3	1	5	7	3
Aigaleo	3	0	1	2	2	7	1

December 15
Middlesbrough v Partizan Belgrade
Villarreal v Aigaleo

Group F
Nov 25: Amica Wronki (Pol) 1 (Dembinski pen 56) **AZ Alkmaar (Hol) 3** (Van Galen 12, Meerdink 36, Huysegems 38); **Rangers (Sco) 3** (Novo 58, Arveladze 85, Namouchi 90) **Grazer AK (Aut) 0.**
Dec 2: Auxerre (Fra) 5 (Mignot 1, Pieroni 5, 24, 25, Kalou 56) **Amica Wronki 1** (Kryszalowicz 17); **AZ Alkmaar 1** (Landzaat 7) **Rangers 0.**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AZ	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
Rangers	3	2	0	1	8	1	6
Auxerre	3	1	1	1	5	3	4
Grazer AK	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Amica Wronki	4	0	0	4	3	16	0

December 15
Grazer AK v AZ Alkmaar
Rangers v Auxerre

Group G
Nov 25: Benfica (Por) 2 (Sokota 11, Simao pen 29) **Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) 0; Heerenveen (Hol) 1** (Yildirim 65) **Stuttgart (Ger) 0.**
Dec 2: Beveren (Blg) 0 Benfica 3 (Simao pen 5, Zahovic 21, 59); **Dinamo Zagreb 2** (Bosnjak 14, Pranjic 57) **Heerenveen 2** (Yildirim 84, Huntelaar pen 88).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	4	3	0	1	9	5	9
Stuttgart	3	2	0	1	8	2	6
Dinamo Zagreb	3	1	1	1	8	5	4
Heerenveen	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
Beveren	3	0	0	3	2	14	0

December 15
Heerenveen v Beveren
Stuttgart v Dinamo Zagreb

Group H
Nov 25: AEK Athens (Gre) 1 (Amponsah 72) **Lille (Fra) 2** (Vitakic 26, Debuchy 63); **Zenit St Petersburg (Rus) 1** (Arshavin 35) **Sevilla (Spa) 1** (Julio Baptista 71).
Dec 2: Alemannia Aachen (Ger) 2 (Meijer 25, Blank pen 90) **Zenit St Petersburg 2** (Radimov pen 38, Gorshkov 76); **Sevilla 3** (Julio Baptista 19, pen 89, Antonito 29) **AEK Athens 2** (Limberopoulos 10, Giorgiopoulos 47).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sevilla	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Lille	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Zenit	4	1	2	1	9	6	5
Alemannia	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
AEK Athens	3	0	0	3	4	10	0

December 15
AEK Athens v Alemannia Aachen
Lille v Sevilla

Top three from each group qualify for the knockout stages, together with the third-placed sides from the eight Champions League groups

ARMENIA

ARMENIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pyunik Yerevan	28	22	5	1	89	25	71
Mika Ashtarak	28	16	7	5	41	23	55
Banants	28	12	7	9	40	39	43
Ararat Yerevan	28	12	7	9	40	33	43
Dinamo-Zenit	28	7	6	15	23	51	28
Kilikia Yerevan	28	7	5	16	32	49	26
Kotaik Abovian	28	6	6	16	31	54	24
Shirak Gyumri	28	4	9	15	27	49	21

AUSTRIA

Nov 6: Admira 0 Salzburg 2; Mattersburg 0 Rapid Wien 0; Sturm Graz 3 Wacker Tirol 1.
Nov 7: Austria Wien 2 Bregenz 0; Pasching 1 Grazer AK 2.
Nov 13: Bregenz 2 Sturm Graz 1; Grazer AK 0 Admira 0; Wacker Tirol 5 Mattersburg 1; Salzburg 1 Austria Wien 1.
Nov 14: Rapid Wien 3 Pasching 0.
Nov 20: Austria Wien 0 Grazer AK 0; Mattersburg 5 Bregenz 2; Sturm Graz 3 Salzburg 1; Pasching 3 Wacker Tirol 2.
Nov 21: Admira 1 Rapid Wien 0.
Nov 27: Rapid Wien 4 Sturm Graz 1; Wacker Tirol 4 Admira 0; Salzburg 1 Mattersburg 2.
Nov 28: Bregenz 0 Austria Wien 1; Grazer AK 1 Pasching 2.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid Wien	19	12	5	2	36	13	41
Austria Wien	19	11	6	2	38	10	39
Pasching	19	12	1	6	37	28	37
Grazer AK	19	9	4	6	21	16	31
Wacker Tirol	19	7	3	9	30	30	24
Mattersburg	19	6	4	9	26	34	22
Admira	19	6	3	10	21	31	21
Salzburg	19	5	5	9	23	27	20
Sturm Graz	19	5	3	11	16	27	18
Bregenz	19	3	4	12	19	51	13

BELARUS

BELARUS – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo Minsk	30	24	3	3	64	18	75
BATE Borisov	30	22	4	4	59	25	70
Shakhtyor	30	19	8	3	55	21	65
Torpedo Z'dino	30	19	2	9	57	28	59
FC Gomel	30	13	7	10	42	41	46
Torpedo Minsk	30	13	7	10	37	31	46
Neman	30	11	7	12	37	33	40
Dynamo Brest	30	10	9	11	39	41	39
Dnepr-T'mash	30	11	4	15	29	37	37
Naftan	30	10	5	15	45	50	35
Darida	30	9	8	13	38	48	35
Slavia Mozyr	30	9	4	17	32	51	31
Zvezda VA BDU	30	7	8	15	31	56	29
Lok Vitebsk	30	8	3	19	34	54	27
MTZ-RIPA	30	6	9	15	32	56	27
Belshina	30	2	6	22	21	62	12

BELGIUM

Friday, November 5
Club Brugge 2 (Balaban 19, Verheyen 36)
Westerlo 0 Att: 23,501

Saturday, November 6
Anderlecht 2 (Baseggio 63, Zetterberg pen 71)
La Louviere 1 (Espartero 28) Att: 23,822

Germinal Beerschot 3 (Messoudi 56, Cadu 81, 82)
Mouscron 1 (Zewlakow 44) Att: 6,000

Lierse 1 (Imschoot 18)
Charleroi 1 (Brogno 56) Att: 6,250

Mons 2 (Datti 55, 56)
Standard 3 (Onyewu 52, 78, Garbini Pereira 83) Att: 7,000

St Truiden 2 (Hajnal 11, De Ceulaer 90)
Lokeren 0 Att: 7,000

Sunday, November 7
Beveren 0
Genk 2 (Kpaka 44, Engelaar 61) Att: 4,500

Gent 3 (Matthijs 38, 78, 79)
FC Brussels 0 Att: 9,100

Ostende 0
Cercle Brugge 1 (Roiha 60) Att: 4,300

Wednesday, November 10
FC Brussels 2 (Snelders 1, Haydock 55)
Ostende 2 (Zoko 33, Djamba-Shango 68) Att: 4,500

Cercle Brugge 2 (Roiha 33, 62)
Lierse 2 (Thompson 45, 65) Att: 4,250

Genk 1 (De Camargo 64)
Gent 1 (Matthijs 78) Att: 21,874

Germinal Beerschot 0
Club Brugge 1 (Van der Heyden 17) Att: 10,000

La Louviere 1 (Guilmot 85)
St Truiden 0 Att: 4,000

Lokeren 1 (Ademilson 68)
Beveren 1 (Romaric 60) Att: 6,000

Mouscron 0
Charleroi 1 (Akgul 83) Att: 6,046

Standard 1 (Sergio Conceicao 53)
Anderlecht 0 Att: 23,500

Westerlo 2 (Haraldsen 14, Paas 35)
Mons 1 (Londo 89) Att: 4,000

Saturday, November 27

Anderlecht 4 (De Boeck 26, Zetterberg 31, Iachtchouk 65, 67)
Westerlo 0 Att: 23,111

Beveren 0
La Louviere 2 (Ishiaku 57, Klukowski 70) Att: 4,000

Charleroi 5 (Brogno 16, Akgul 42, Kere 66, 87, Defays 90)
Cercle Brugge 1 (Dekelver 37) Att: 7,878

Gent 3 (Boussoufa 8, Mamouni 22, Jarakovic 80)
Lokeren 1 (Hendrikx 43) Att: 8,200

Ostende 1 (Djamba-Shango 49)
Genk 3 (Engelaar 1, Vandenbergh 82, Haroun 89) Att: 4,400

Sunday, November 28

Club Brugge 3 (Simons 2, 56, Lange 35)
Mouscron 0 Att: 23,041

Lierse 5 (De Wilde 20, 29, 74, Imschoot 32, Mitu 87)
FC Brussels 1 (Culek 88) Att: 7,000

Mons 0
Germinal Beerschot 1 (Dembele 61) Att: 3,500

St Truiden 4 (Hajnal 16, Beda 43, Buvens 45, De Ceulaer 58)
Standard 1 (Juan Curbelo 32) Att: 11,000

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	14	12	2	0	36	5	38
Anderlecht	14	10	1	3	32	15	31
Gent	14	9	1	4	28	19	28
La Louviere	14	8	2	4	24	12	26
Charleroi	14	8	2	4	21	17	26
Genk	14	6	6	2	18	14	24
Standard	14	7	2	5	19	19	23
Lierse	14	6	3	5	27	22	21
Cercle Brugge	14	6	2	6	24	33	20
Lokeren	14	5	4	5	16	18	19
Westerlo	14	5	2	7	12	21	17
Beveren	14	4	4	6	18	18	16
Germinal B	14	5	1	8	15	18	16
St Truiden	14	4	3	7	14	19	15
Mouscron	14	4	3	7	13	19	15
FC Brussels	14	2	2	10	11	30	8
Mons	14	1	3	10	12	26	6
Ostende	14	0	5	9	13	28	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS
9 Bosko Balaban (Club Brugge)
8 Cadu (Germinal Beerschot)

BULGARIA

Nov 6: Slavia 1 Lokomotiv Sofia 0; Cherno More 1 Beroe 0; Vidima-Rakovski 3 Naftex 0; Belasitsa 1 Rodopa 0; Levski 4 Spartak Varna 1; Lovech 2 Nesebar 1; Pirin 1 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 4.
Nov 7: Marek 2 CSKA 2.
Nov 13: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1 Slavia 0; Rodopa 2 Pirin 0; CSKA 2 Belasitsa 0; Nesebar 1 Marek 1; Naftex 1 Lovech 0; Spartak Varna 3 Vidima-Rakovski 2.
Nov 14: Beroe 0 Levski 1; Lokomotiv Sofia 2 Cherno More 1.
Nov 20: Vidima-Rakovski 1 Beroe 0; Lovech 4 Spartak Varna 1; Marek 2 Naftex 1; Belasitsa 3 Nesebar 0; Pirin 0 CSKA 3; Lokmotiv Plovdiv 4 Rodopa 0.
Nov 21: Levski 5 Lokomotiv Sofia 0; Slavia 3 Cherno More 1.
Nov 27: Rodopa 0 Slavia 0; Nesebar 1 Pirin 0; Spartak Varna 1 Marek 0; Lokomotiv Sofia 5 Vidima-Rakovski 2; CSKA 0 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0; Beroe 1 Lovech 1; Cherno More 0 Levski 0; Naftex 3 Belasitsa 0.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	15	12	3	0	46	9	39
Levski	15	12	3	0	37	8	39
Lok Plovdiv	15	9	3	3	35	14	30
Slavia	15	8	4	3	23	16	28
Lovech	15	8	2	5	28	18	26
Marek	15	5	5	5	17	21	20
Belasitsa	15	5	3	7	11	16	18
Cherno More	15	5	2	8	18	21	17
Vidima-R'vski	15	4	4	7	19	26	16
Naftex	15	4	4	7	13	20	16
Lok Sofia*	15	5	3	7	18	27	15
Rodopa	15	4	3	8	11	22	15
Beroe	15	3	4	8	15	20	13
Nesebar	15	3	4	8	12	27	13
Spartak Varna	15	4	1	10	15	41	13
Pirin	15	2	6	7	12	24	12

**3pts deducted for non-payment of wages*

CROATIA

Nov 6: Pula 1 Zagreb 1; Hajduk 2 Medimurje 0; Inter 0 Kamen Ingrad 0; Rijeka 1 Slaven 1; Varteks 3 Zadar 0.
Nov 7: Osijek 1 Dinamo 1.
Nov 13: Osijek 2 Pula 1; Zadar 2 Rijeka 2; Slaven 2 Inter 1; Kamen Ingrad 2 Hajduk 1; Medimurje 0 Zagreb 1; Dinamo 2 Varteks 1.
Nov 20: Pula 2 Medimurje 1; Zagreb 1 Kamen Ingrad 0; Hajduk 2 Slaven 1; Inter 4 Zadar 1; Rijeka 4 Dinamo 2; Varteks 4 Osijek 0.
Nov 27: Varteks 1 Pula 0; Osijek 1 Rijeka 1; Zadar 1 Hajduk 3; Slaven 1 Zagreb 1; Kamen Ingrad 2 Medimurje 0.
Nov 28: Dinamo 2 Inter 0.

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hajduk	17	10	2	5	31	18	32
Varteks	17	10	1	6	37	21	31
Rijeka	17	8	6	3	28	18	30
Inter	17	9	3	5	21	15	30
Dinamo	17	7	6	4	31	22	27
Kamen Ingrad	17	8	2	7	23	20	26
Osijek	17	6	7	4	23	25	25
Slaven	17	7	4	6	16	20	25
Zagreb	17	6	3	8	18	20	21
Pula	17	3	6	8	15	22	15
Zadar	17	4	1	12	21	41	13
Medimurje	17	2	3	12	14	36	9

CZECH REPUBLIC

Nov 6: Ceske Budejovice 1 Slavia 2; Liberec 1 Slovacko 1; Ostrava 1 Brno 1; Olomouc 0 Jablonec 1; Zlin 3 Drnovice 1.
Nov 7: Pribram 0 Teplice 2.
Nov 8: Chmel Blsany 1 Opava 0; Sparta 0 Mlada Boleslav 1.
Nov 13: Brno 0 Sparta 1; Slovacko 3 Ostrava 1; Slavia 5 Pribram 1.
Nov 14: Jablonec 1 Zlin 0; Drnovice 2 Mlada Boleslav 0; Teplice 1 Olomouc 0; Ceske Budejovice 3 Chmel Blsany 0.
Nov 15: Opava 1 Liberec 1.
Nov 20: Chmel Blsany 0 Slavia 3; Zlin 2 Ceske Budejovice 2; Olomouc 0 Opava 1; Ostrava 2 Drnovice 2; Sparta 3 Jablonec 1.
Nov 21: Pribram 0 Slovacko 0; Mlada Boleslav 4 Brno 0.
Nov 22: Liberec 4 Teplice 0.
Nov 27: Teplice 0 Sparta 0; Ceske Budejovice 1 Liberec 2; Opava 1 Zlin 2; Slovacko 1 Mlada Boleslav 1.
Nov 28: Jablonec 2 Brno 0; Drnovice 0 Olomouc 0; Chmel Blsany 3 Pribram 2.
Nov 29: Slavia 1 Ostrava 0.

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta	15	11	3	1	30	10	36
Teplice	15	8	6	1	16	10	30
Liberec	15	8	4	3	24	8	28
Slavia	15	8	3	4	21	11	27
Jablonec	15	7	4	4	18	14	25
Olomouc	15	7	2	6	16	15	23
Ostrava	15	4	6	5	18	22	18
Zlin	15	4	6	5	15	19	18
Drnovice	15	4	5	6	17	18	17
Brno	15	4	3	8	11	22	15
Chmel Blsany	15	4	3	8	10	21	15
Mlada Boleslav	15	3	5	7	14	19	14
Pribram	15	3	3	9	14	29	12
C Budejovice	15	2	5	8	14	19	11
Slovacko*	15	5	7	3	13	9	10
Opava*	15	3	5	7	16	21	8

**Slovacko and Opava had 12pts and 6pts deducted respectively for their part in a bribery scandal*

DENMARK

Nov 3: OB 5 Herfolge 0; Nordsjaelland 2 Randers 2; Midtjylland 2 FC Copenhagen 0; AGF 2 AaB 1; Viborg 1 Silkeborg 1; Esbjerg 2 Brondby 2.
Nov 6: Brondby 1 Viborg 0; Esbjerg 2 AaB 3.
Nov 7: Randers 4 Silkeborg 0; OB 7 Nordsjaelland 1; FC Copenhagen 2 AGF 3; Midtjylland 1 Herfolge 0.
Nov 13: AaB 2 Midtjylland 1; Viborg 1 Silkeborg 1.
Nov 14: AGF 3 OB 3; Nordsjaelland 0 Brondby 1; Herfolge 0 FC Copenhagen 1; Esbjerg 1 Randers 0.
Nov 20: OB 2 Herfolge 0; Midtjylland 4 Esbjerg 3.
Nov 21: Brondby 4 AGF 0; FC Copenhagen 4 AaB 0.
Nov 25: Randers 2 Viborg 2; Silkeborg 2 Nordsjaelland 1.
Nov 27: Esbjerg 1 FC Copenhagen 1; AaB 1 OB 1.
Nov 28: AGF 1 Silkeborg 3; Nordsjaelland 3 Viborg 2; Midtjylland 2 Randers 1; Herfolge 1 Brondby 2.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brondby	18	13	4	1	31	10	43
Midtjylland	18	10	3	5	29	24	33
OB	18	9	3	6	42	23	30
Viborg	18	7	6	5	21	18	27
FC Copenhagen	18	7	6	5	29	27	27
AGF	18	7	5	6	31	31	26
AaB	18	7	4	7	28	25	25
Esbjerg	18	6	5	7	35	31	23
Silkeborg	18	6	3	9	28	33	21
Nordsjaelland	18	4	4	10	22	37	16
Randers	18	3	5	10	20	34	14
Herfolge	18	4	2	12	15	38	14

ENGLAND

Saturday, November 6

Aston Villa 3 (Whittingham 18, Angel 25, Solano 40)
Portsmouth 0 Att: 32,633

Chelsea 1 (Robben 72)
Everton 0 Att: 41,965

Crystal Palace 1 (Riihilahti 65)
Arsenal 1 (Henry 63) Att: 26,193

Liverpool 0
Birmingham 1 (Anderton 77) Att: 42,669

Norwich 1 (Svensson 56)
Blackburn 1 (Dickov 86) Att: 23,834

Southampton 2 (A Svensson 28, 87)
West Bromwich 2 (Earnshaw 29, 37) Att: 31,057

Tottenham 2 (Keane pen 72, Defoe 79)
Charlton 3 (Bartlett 17, 40, Thomas 55) Att: 35,423

Sunday, November 7

Manchester Utd 0
Manchester City 0 Att: 67,863

Middlesbrough 1 (Boateng 90)
Bolton 1 (Pedersen 72) Att: 29,656

Newcastle 1 (Bellamy 77)
Fulham 4 (John 28, Malbranque 65, pen 71, Boa Morte 76) Att: 51,118

Saturday, November 13

Birmingham 0
Everton 1 (Gravesen pen 68) Att: 28,388

Bolton 1 (Diouf 21)
Aston Villa 2 (McCann 41, Hitzlsperger 88) Att: 25,799

Charlton 4 (Johansson 15, 21, Konchesky 75, Euell 88)
Norwich 0 Att: 27,057

Fulham 1 (Diop 57)
Chelsea 4 (Lampard 33, Robben 59, Gallas 73, Tiago 81) Att: 21,877

Liverpool 3 (Baros pen 23, 45, pen 90)
Crystal Palace 2 (Kolkka 44, Hughes 52) Att: 42,862

Manchester City 1 (Sibierski 45)
Blackburn 1 (Dickov pen 78) Att: 45,504

Southampton 2 (Blackstock 18, Phillips 71)
Portsmouth 1 (Jakobsson og 12) Att: 30,921

Tottenham 4 (Naybet 37, Defoe 61, King 74, Kanoute 88)
Arsenal 5 (Henry 45, Lauren pen 55, Vieira 60, Ljungberg 69, Pires 81) Att: 36,095

Sunday, November 14

Newcastle 1 (Shearer 71)
Manchester Utd 3 (Rooney 7, 90, Van Nistelrooy pen 74) Att: 52,320

West Bromwich 1 (Earnshaw 37)
Middlesbrough 2 (Purse og 32, Zenden 52) Att: 24,008

Saturday, November 20

Arsenal 1 (Pires 54)
West Bromwich 1 (Earnshaw 79) Att: 38,109

ESM
EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES
GOLDEN SHOE

ESM GOLDEN SHOE STANDINGS AT 28.11.04

POS	NAME	TEAM	GOALS	FACTOR	PTS
1	Tomasz Frankowski	Wisla Krakow (Pol)	19	1.5	28.5
	Frode Johnsen	Rosenborg (Nor)	19	1.5	28.5
3	Vjatseslav Zahhovaiko	Flora Tallinn (Est)	28	1	28
4	Alexander Kerzhakov	Zenit St Petersburg (Rus)	18	1.5	27
5	Andrei Karyaka	Kryliya Sovetov (Rus)	17	1.5	25.5
6	Jason Byrne	Shelbourne (Ire)	25	1	25
7	Marek Mintal	Nurnberg (Ger)	12	2	24
8	Martin Kamburov	Lokomotiv Plovdiv (Bul)	15	1.5	22.5
	Christian Mayrleb	Pasching (Aut)	15	1.5	22.5
	Alexander Odegaard	Sogndal (Nor)	15	1.5	22.5
	Alexander Panov	Torpedo Moscow (Rus)	15	1.5	22.5
	Dmitri Sychev	Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus)	15	1.5	22.5
13	Ulugbek Bakayev	Tobol (Kaz)	22	1	22
	Thierry Henry	Arsenal (Eng)	11	2	22
	Vincenzo Montella	Roma (Ita)	11	2	22
	Arsen Tlehugov	Kairat (Kaz)	22	1	22

For the latest standings, updated weekly, visit www.worldsoccer.com

Chelsea 2 (Duff 1, Tiago 48)
Bolton 2 (Davies 52, Jaidi 87) Att: 42,203

Crystal Palace 0
Newcastle 2 (Kluivert 79, Bellamy 88) Att: 22,937

Everton 1 (Ferguson 67)
Fulham 0 Att: 34,763

Manchester Utd 2 (Giggs 41, Scholes 48)
Charlton 0 Att: 67,704

Middlesbrough 2 (Riggott 36, Zenden 62)
Liverpool 0 Att: 34,751

Norwich 2 (Francis 28, 52)
Southampton 1 (Beattie 24) Att: 23,706

Portsmouth 1 (O'Neil 8)
Manchester City 3 (S Wright-Phillips 6, Sibierski 79, Bosvelt 87) Att: 20,101

Sunday, November 21
Blackburn 3 (Jansen 4, Reid 57, Gallagher 63)
Birmingham 3 (Anderton 17, Savage 38, Dunn 45) Att: 20,290

Monday, November 22
Aston Villa 1 (Solano 57)
Tottenham 0 Att: 35,702

Saturday, November 27
Birmingham 1 (Morrison 9)
Norwich 1 (Huckerby 64) Att: 29,120

Bolton 0
Portsmouth 1 (De Zeeuw 45) Att: 25,008

Charlton 0
Chelsea 4 (Duff 4, Terry 51, 52, Gudjohnsen 59) Att: 26,355

Fulham 0
Blackburn 2 (Gallagher 10, Dickov pen 77) Att: 19,103

Manchester City 2 (Macken 29, S Wright-Phillips 37)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 44,530

Southampton 2 (Phillips 51, Jakobsson 76)
Crystal Palace 2 (Johnson 48, Routledge 54) Att: 31,833

West Bromwich 0
Manchester Utd 3 (Scholes 54, 80, Van Nistelrooy 71) Att: 27,709

Sunday, November 28
Liverpool 2 (Xabi Alonso 41, Mellor 90)
Arsenal 1 (Vieira 57) Att: 43,730

Newcastle 1 (Bellamy 5)
Everton 1 (Carsley 56) Att: 51,247

Tottenham 2 (Defoe 49, Kanoute 76)
Middlesbrough 0 Att: 35,772

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	15	11	3	1	27	6	36
Arsenal	15	9	4	2	39	20	31
Everton	15	9	3	3	17	12	30
Man Utd	15	7	6	2	19	10	27
Middlesbrough	15	7	4	4	24	18	25
Aston Villa	15	6	6	3	20	16	24
Liverpool	14	7	2	5	23	16	23
Bolton	15	6	5	4	22	19	23
Man City	15	5	5	5	19	14	20
Newcastle	15	5	5	5	27	27	20
Portsmouth	14	5	3	6	18	20	18
Charlton	15	5	3	7	17	27	18
Tottenham	15	4	4	7	14	17	16
Birmingham	15	2	8	5	12	15	14
Fulham	15	4	2	9	17	27	14
Crystal Palace	15	3	4	8	17	23	13
Blackburn	15	2	7	6	16	29	13
Southampton	15	2	6	7	15	21	12
Norwich	15	1	9	5	14	25	12
West Brom	15	1	7	7	13	28	10

LEADING GOALSCORERS
11 Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
9 Andy Johnson (Crystal Palace)
8 Robert Pires (Arsenal)

ESTONIA

ESTONIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levadia Tallinn	28	21	6	1	82	14	69
Tallinna VMK	28	19	6	3	89	29	63
Flora Tallinn	28	18	4	6	83	25	58
Trans Narva	28	15	2	11	43	39	47
Merkuur Tartu	28	10	5	13	47	58	35
Tulevik Viljandi	28	6	7	15	30	53	25
Valga	28	5	2	21	30	80	17
Lootus	28	1	2	25	11	117	5

FINLAND

FINLAND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Haka	26	18	5	3	54	20	59
Allianssi	26	14	6	6	36	28	48
Tampere Utd	26	14	5	7	39	24	47
Inter Turku	26	13	5	8	42	34	44
TPS Turku	26	12	6	8	36	31	42
HJK Helsinki	26	9	12	5	42	31	39
Lahti	26	9	11	6	37	33	38
MyPa	26	9	8	9	33	31	35
KooTeePee	26	8	8	10	28	28	32
TP-47	26	8	4	14	34	44	28
Jaro	26	8	4	14	31	43	28
RoPS	26	7	4	15	28	45	25
Jazz	26	4	7	15	28	53	19
Hameenlinna	26	3	7	16	28	51	16

FRANCE

Saturday, November 6
Bastia 1 (Jau 40)
Rennes 1 (Kallstrom 79) Att: 5,018

Caen 0
Sochaux 2 (Ilan 18, Zairi 67) Att: 20,524

Lens 0
Lyon 1 (Itandje og 35) Att: 39,070

Monaco 2 (Porato og 36, Kallon pen 79)
Ajaccio 2 (Dzodic 15, Ouadah 90) Att: 9,832

Saint-Etienne 2 (Feindouno pen 25, 90)
Nice 1 (Agali 29) Att: 27,353

Strasbourg 1 (Pagis 90)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 16,014

Toulouse 1 (Giresse 38)
Metz 1 (Ribery 82) Att: 17,877

Sunday, November 7
Istres 0
Lille 2 (Odemwingie 37, Brunel pen 49) Att: 12,000

Nantes 1 (Bagayoko 44)
Auxerre 1 (Tainio 76) Att: 30,000

Paris SG 2 (Pauleta 32, Cisse 70)
Marseille 1 (Batiles 42) Att: 46,000

Saturday, November 13
Auxerre 1 (Lachuer 58)
Ajaccio 0 Att: 7,857

Bastia 0
Saint-Etienne 3 (Hellebúyk 63, 69, Piquionne 86) Att: 4,756

Bordeaux 3 (Pichot og 6, Laslandes 48, Rool 77)
Paris SG 0 Att: 31,988

Lyon 2 (Frau 46, Govou 59)
Nantes 0 Att: 35,556

Marseille 2 (Bamogo 53, Koke 70)
Strasbourg 0 Att: 49,754

Metz 1 (Gueye 39)
Caen 2 (Mazure 45, 82) Att: 13,191

Nice 1 (Cobos 16)
Lens 1 (Utaka 34) Att: 10,144

Rennes 1 (Monterrubio 71)
Toulouse 1 (Moreira 75) Att: 18,027

Sochaux 1 (Hamed og 83)
Istres 1 (Courtois 54) Att: 14,908

Sunday, November 14
Lille 1 (Landrin 43)
Monaco 1 (Chevanton 30) Att: 20,000

Friday, November 19
Monaco 1 (Adebayor 68)
Sochaux 3 (Menez 30, Oruma 62, Ilan 79) Att: 12,888

Paris SG 0
Lyon 0 Att: 42,478

Saturday, November 20
Ajaccio 2 (Andre Luiz pen 12, 46)
Marseille 0 Att: 4,156

Caen 0
Nice 0 Att: 20,190

Istres 0
Metz 0 Att: 4,775

Lens 1 (Thomert 45)
Lille 1 (Landrin 58) Att: 38,828

Nantes 0
Bordeaux 1 (Meriem 26) Att: 31,393

Saint-Etienne 1 (Compan 85)
Rennes 0 Att: 25,940

Strasbourg 3 (Abdessadki 21, 57, Niang 35)
Auxerre 1 (Pieroni 65) Att: 12,334

Toulouse 1 (Dieuze 68)
Bastia 0 Att: 15,526

Saturday, November 27
Bastia 2 (Sidibe 7, Vairelles 58)
Caen 0 Att: 3,644

Bordeaux 0
Ajaccio 0 Att: 19,443

Lyon 2 (Wiltord 5, Juninho 30)
Auxerre 1 (Cheyrou 67) Att: 37,933

Marseille 3 (Meite 15, Fiorese 21, Marlet 90)
Nantes 1 (Yapi Yapo 58) Att: 50,124

Metz 2 (Meniri 7, Proment pen 22)
Saint-Etienne 2 (Sable 12, Hognon 73) Att: 18,494

Rennes 3 (Sorlin 9, 90, Monterrubio pen 57)
Istres 1 (Pele 82) Att: 20,598

Toulouse 0
Monaco 0 Att: 31,568

Sunday, November 28
Lille 1 (Odemwingie 84)
Strasbourg 1 (Niang 55) Att: 20,000

Nice 1 (Traore 68)
Paris SG 1 (Pancrate 36) Att: 17,000

Sochaux 1 (Diawara 72)
Lens 2 (Cousin 77, Sarr 90) Att: 20,000

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lyon	16	10	6	0	21	6	36
Lille	16	9	4	3	20	9	31
Sochaux	16	7	4	5	21	15	25
Auxerre	16	7	4	5	21	16	25
Marseille	16	7	4	5	18	14	25
Bordeaux	16	5	9	2	20	9	24
Monaco	16	5	8	3	19	17	23
Toulouse	16	5	6	5	17	16	21
Rennes	16	5	5	6	16	19	20
Metz	16	4	8	4	16	21	20
Saint-Etienne	16	4	7	5	19	19	19
Paris SG	16	4	7	5	17	20	19
Nice	16	4	7	5	17	21	19
Caen	16	4	7	5	13	20	19
Lens	16	3	9	4	16	16	18
Nantes	16	4	5	7	13	17	17
Bastia	16	4	5	7	13	20	17
Strasbourg	16	3	6	7	17	24	15
Ajaccio	16	2	8	6	15	19	14
Istres	16	0	9	7	8	19	9

LEADING GOALSCORERS
7 Alexander Frei (Rennes)
7 Mickael Pagis (Strasbourg)

GERMANY

Saturday, November 6
Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Buckley 8)
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 26,601

Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Freier 48, 88, Krzynowek 53, Voronin 90)
Freiburg 1 (Coulibaly 29) Att: 22,500

Bayern Munich 3 (Pizarro 3, Makaay 80, Guerrero 90)
Hannover 0 Att: 62,000

Bochum 1 (Lokvenc 62)
Kaiserslautern 1 (Lembi 26) Att: 22,977

Hertha 1 (Madlung 90)
Werder Bremen 1 (Haristeas 80) Att: 47,411

Mainz 1 (Noveski 58)
Monchengladbach 1 (Sverkos 13) Att: 20,300

Nurnberg 4 (Mintal 2, 28, 49, Schroth 45)
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 22,291

Sunday, November 7
Hamburg 1 (Beinlich 47)
Schalke 2 (Hanke 79, Lincoln 81) Att: 53,487

Stuttgart 4 (Meissner 7, Kuranyi 38, Cacau 56, Heldt 80)
Hansa Rostock 0 Att: 46,000

Saturday, November 13
Freiburg 2 (Coulibaly 15, Iashvili 39)
Arminia Bielefeld 3 (Buckley 16, 87, Owomoyela 20) Att: 21,000

Hannover 2 (Christiansen 34, Schroter 51)
Mainz 0 Att: 31,078

Kaiserslautern 1 (Zandi pen 71)
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 37,417

Monchengladbach 2 (Neuville 20, Sverkos 71)
Nurnberg 1 (Mintal pen 90) Att: 45,595

Schalke 1 (Asamoah 50)
Hertha 3 (Marcelinho 42, Rafael 71, Kovac 83) Att: 61,524

Werder Bremen 2 (Klose 19, Haedo Valdez 72)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Voronin 51, Berbatov 53) Att: 38,128

Wolfsburg 3 (Brdaric 39, Petrov 69, 76)
Stuttgart 0 Att: 29,076

Sunday, November 14
Bochum 1 (Lokvenc 66)
Bayern Munich 3 (Guerrero 76, 81, Preuss og 82) Att: 32,645

Hansa Rostock 0
Hamburg 6 (Benjamin 20, Jarolim 35, 63, Takahara 42, Da Silva Moreira 46, Romeo 83) Att: 18,000

Saturday, November 20
Arminia Bielefeld 2 (Vata 45, Kuntzel 77)
Werder Bremen 1 (Klasnic 83) Att: 26,601

Bayer Leverkusen 0
Schalke 3 (Sand 27, Ailton 37, Lincoln 71) Att: 22,500

Bayern Munich 3 (Pizarro 12, Frings 26, Guerrero 64)
Kaiserslautern 1 (Riedl 7) Att: 40,000

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Brzenska 3, Madouni 81)
Freiburg 0 Att: 76,000

Hertha 1 (Marcelinho 90)
Hansa Rostock 1 (Lantz 36) Att: 43,382

Mainz 1 (Antonio Da Silva 19)
Bochum 0 Att: 20,300

Stuttgart 1 (Kuranyi 56)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 46,000

Sunday, November 21
Hamburg 3 (Van Buyten 39, Barbarez 45, Romeo 90)
Wolfsburg 1 (Brdaric 1) Att: 48,246

Nurnberg 1 (Mintal 81)
Hannover 1 (Stendel 56) Att: 22,318

Saturday, November 27
Bayern Munich 4 (Pizarro 14, Scholl 35, Makaay 45, Ballack 88)
Mainz 2 (Babatz 84, Weber 90) Att: 49,000

Bochum 3 (Lokvenc 21, 50, Kalla 42)
Nurnberg 1 (Mintal 65) Att: 20,356

Hansa Rostock 0
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Berbatov 36, Voronin 63) Att: 15,800

Kaiserslautern 3 (Amanatidis 44, 70, Zandi 87)
Freiburg 0 Att: 30,741

Monchengladbach 1 (Van Hout 46)
Hamburg 3 (Barbarez 40, pen 82, Beinlich 44) Att: 52,155

Werder Bremen 2 (Micoud 32, Ismael 57)
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 40,702

Wolfsburg 2 (Thiam 50, Brdaric 68)
Hertha 3 (Marcelinho 16, 47, 74) Att: 23,886

Sunday, November 28
Hannover 0
Stuttgart 0 Att: 33,598

Schalke 2 (Kobiashvili 28, Ailton 38)
Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Kauf 20) Att: 61,524

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	15	10	2	3	29	16	32
Schalke	15	10	0	5	24	20	30
Stuttgart	15	8	3	4	25	15	27
Wolfsburg	15	9	0	6	26	24	27
Hannover	15	7	4	4	22	15	25
Werder Bremen	15	7	3	5	29	18	24
A Bielefeld	15	7	2	6	18	17	23
Hamburg	15	7	1	7	28	22	22
Hertha	15	5	7	3	21	15	22
B Leverkusen	15	6	4	5	25	23	22
Mainz	15	6	4	5	24	24	22
Nurnberg	15	4	5	6	25	24	17
B Dortmund	15	4	5	6	16	20	17
Kaiserslautern	15	5	2	8	19	25	17
M'gladbach	15	4	4	7	19	23	16
Bochum	15	3	5	7	20	28	14
Freiburg	15	2	4	9	13	31	10
Hansa Rostock	15	2	3	10	11	34	9

LEADING GOALSCORERS
12 Marek Mintal (Nurnberg)
10 Delron Buckley (Arminia Bielefeld)
9 Oliver Neuville (Monchengladbach)

GREECE

Nov 6: OFI 1 Aris 1; Xanthi 2 Halkidona 0.
Nov 7: Kerkira 0 Aigaleo 1; Panionios 0 Kalamaria 0; Iraklis 0 Panathinaikos 4; PAOK 0 Ergotelis 2; AEK 0 Olympiakos 0; Ionikos 0 Kallithea 0.
Nov 20: Olympiakos 3 OFI 0; Panathinaikos 1 Kallithea 0.
Nov 21: Kerkira 3 Xanthi 0; Aigaleo 0 Panionios 0; Kalamaria 1 Iraklis 3; Halkidona 2 PAOK 0; Ergotelis 0 AEK 1; Aris 0 Ionikos 2.
Nov 27: Panionios 3 Kerkira 1; OFI 5 Ergotelis 0.
Nov 28: Iraklis 2 Aigaleo 2; Kallithea 1 Kalamaria 1; Ionikos 0 Olympiakos 4; Xanthi 0 PAOK 2; AEK 1 Halkidona 0; Aris 1 Panathinaikos 1.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK	9	6	3	0	14	4	21
Olympiakos	9	6	2	1	19	5	20
Panathinaikos	9	6	2	1	17	4	20
Aigaleo	9	3	6	0	7	4	15
Halkidona	9	4	2	3	11	9	14
Xanthi	9	4	2	3	13	12	14
OFI	9	3	2	4	12	11	11
Panionios	9	3	2	4	6	10	11
Ionikos	9	3	2	4	5	9	11
PAOK	9	3	2	4	8	14	11
Kalamaria	9	2	4	3	7	8	10
Iraklis	9	3	1	5	9	13	10
Kallithea	9	2	3	4	12	14	9
Kerkira	9	2	2	5	7	11	8
Aris	9	0	5	4	8	14	5
Ergotelis	9	1	2	6	4	17	5

HOLLAND

Friday, November 5
RBC 3 (Hakansson 3, Molenaar 45, Ikedia 58)
De Graafschap 0 Att: 4,650

Saturday, November 6
RKC 0
Heerenveen 0 Att: 6,000

Sunday, November 7
AZ 4 (Meerdink 3, Perez 50, Nelisse 87, Lindenbergh 89)
Utrecht 0 Att: 8,650

Den Bosch 0
PSV 3 (Farfan 41, Alex 68, Cocu 74) Att: 6,477

Feyenoord 4 (Kuijt 15, Goor 46, 90, Buffel 87)
NAC 0 Att: 37,200

Twente 1 (Culina 10)
Groningen 2 (Nevland 30, Krstev 51) Att: 13,100

Vitesse 1 (Amoah 67)
NEC 0 Att: 18,320

Willem II 1 (Grygera og 13)
Ajax 3 (Rosales 36, 43, Maxwell 62) Att: 13,100

Friday, November 12
Den Haag 5 (Den Ouden 10, 21, Van der Gun 31, Polak 52, Platvoet 88)
RBC 1 (Hakansson 35) Att: 5,246

Saturday, November 13
Heerenveen 0
Vitesse 3 (Hofs 58, Amoah 80, 88) Att: 17,400

NAC 0
AZ 3 (Meerdink 34, Sektioui 88, Penders og 90) Att: 14,850

NEC 0
Twente 2 (Culina 18, El Ahmadi 88) Att: 11,500

PSV 1 (Vennegoor of Hesselink 16)
Willem II 0 Att: 31,000

Sunday, November 14
Ajax 1 (Rosales 27)
Feyenoord 1 (Kuijt 44) Att: 49,557

Groningen 3 (Salmon 55, Buijs 58, Floren 75)
Den Bosch 1 (Van den Ouweland 22) Att: 12,258

RKC 2 (Janssen 10, Takak 59)
De Graafschap 2 (Van Beukering 26, Loval 81) Att: 6,110

Utrecht 1 (Van den Bergh 66)
Roda JC 1 (Sergio 43) Att: 19,600

Friday, November 19
Roda JC 1 (Sergio 86)
Den Haag 1 (Den Ouden 40) Att: 11,400

Saturday, November 20
AZ 3 (Landzaat 16, Van Galen 51, Huysegems 90)
RKC 0 Att: 8,273

De Graafschap 0
Ajax 5 (Escude 47, 65, Bus og 53, Babel 66, Galasek 71) Att: 11,000

RBC 1 (De Graaf 17)
Heerenveen 3 (Hestad 28, 49, Huntelaar 54) Att: 4,800

Sunday, November 21
Den Bosch 0
NEC 0 Att: 5,323

Feyenoord 1 (Kuijt 39)
Groningen 2 (Nevland 24, 71) Att: 40,500

Twente 0
Utrecht 1 (Tanghe 37) Att: 13,000

Vitesse 0
PSV 2 (Sibon 56, Beasley 90) Att: 17,349

Willem II 0
NAC 1 (Mendes da Silva 27) Att: 12,600

Friday, November 26
RKC 2 (Oost 69, Takak 90)
Vitesse 2 (Schaars 36, Amoah 87) Att: 5,000

Saturday, November 27
Den Haag 0
Willem II 1 (Bobson 36) Att: 6,390

NEC 1 (Wisgerhof 69)
Roda JC 1 (Cristiano 9) Att: 12,000

PSV 2 (Sibon 15, Cocu 66)
Twente 0 Att: 30,500

Sunday, November 28
Ajax 4 (Anastasiou 13, Maxwell 33, Escude 51, Rosales 83)
RBC 1 (De Graaf 23) Att: 47,637

Groningen 1 (Salmon 55)
AZ 2 (Van Galen 17, Opdam 70) Att: 12,500

Heerenveen 2 (Samaras 74, Yildirim 86)
Feyenoord 2 (Buffel 40, Kuijt 71) Att: 17,800

NAC 3 (Boussaboun 58, Zonneveld 84, Cornelisse 90)
Den Bosch 0 Att: 11,477

Utrecht 1 (Kruys 82)
De Graafschap 0 Att: 18,800

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	14	12	2	0	35	5	38
AZ	14	10	3	1	35	12	33
Ajax	14	8	4	2	34	16	28
Feyenoord	14	8	3	3	37	17	27
Utrecht	14	7	3	4	21	17	24
Heerenveen	14	7	3	4	25	23	24
NAC	14	7	2	5	26	32	23
Vitesse	14	6	3	5	23	20	21
Willem II	14	6	2	6	20	22	20
Groningen	14	5	4	5	23	23	19
Roda JC	14	4	5	5	22	24	17
RKC	14	3	6	5	17	21	15
NEC	14	3	5	6	14	17	14
Twente	14	4	2	8	15	20	14
Den Haag	14	3	2	9	18	25	11
Den Bosch	14	2	3	9	10	36	9
RBC	14	2	1	11	16	40	7
De Graafschap	14	0	5	9	13	34	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS
12 Dirk Kuijt (Feyenoord)
9 Klaas Jan Huntelaar (Heerenveen)
9 Salomon Kalou (Feyenoord)

HUNGARY

Nov 6: MTK 1 Bekescsaba 1; Diosgyor 0 Nyiregyhaza 1; Videoton 1 Kaposvar 1; Gyor 2 Vasas 1; Honved 2 Matav 1; Zalaegerszeg 1 Ujpest 0; Pecs 2 Papa 1.
Nov 7: Debrecen 2 Ferencvaros 0.
Nov 10: Nyiregyhaza 0 Videoton 2; Kaposvar 1 MTK 2; Ferencvaros 1 Pecs 1; Papa 1 Zalaegerszeg 2; Ujpest 1 Honved 2; Matav 1 Gyor 0; Vasas 3 Diosgyor 1; Bekescsaba 0 Debrecen 2.
Nov 20: Kaposvar 1 Bekescsaba 2; MTK 3 Nyiregyhaza 0; Videoton 1 Vasas 0; Diosgyor 1 Matav 0; Honved 3 Papa 2; Zalaegerszeg 1 Ferencvaros 5; Pecs 1 Debrecen 1.
Nov 21: Gyor 1 Ujpest 1.
Nov 27: Nyiregyhaza 4 Kaposvar 1; Vasas 3 MTK 1; Papa 1 Gyor 2; Ujpest 4 Diosgyor 1; Matav 2 Videoton 1; Bekescsaba 2 Pecs 1.
Nov 28: Debrecen 2 Zalaegerszeg 0; Ferencvaros 4 Honved 0.

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ferencvaros	15	11	2	2	39	12	35
Debrecen	15	10	2	3	27	12	32
Zalaegerszeg	15	8	3	4	26	20	27
Ujpest	15	7	5	3	27	18	26
MTK	15	7	4	4	22	15	25
Gyor	15	7	3	5	19	16	24
Videoton	15	6	5	4	23	14	23
Honved	15	6	2	7	24	33	20
Matav	15	5	4	6	20	25	19
Kaposvar	15	5	3	7	18	27	18
Vasas	15	5	1	9	21	23	16
Pecs	15	4	4	7	16	21	16
Papa	15	4	3	8	21	24	15
Diosgyor	15	4	1	10	15	28	13
Bekescsaba	15	3	4	8	14	31	13
Nyiregyhaza	15	2	6	7	18	31	12

ITALY

Saturday, November 6
Brescia 1 (Schopp 86)
Chievo 0 Att: 6,410

Reggina 2 (Colucci 13, Zamboni 26)
Juventus 1 (Ibrahimovic 14) Att: 20,803

Sunday, November 7
Atalanta 0
Sampdoria 0 Att: 14,150

Bologna 2 (Loviso 31, Cipriani 54)
Messina 2 (Di Napoli 4, Amoruso 33) Att: 17,270

Cagliari 0
Livorno 0 Att: 10,000

Fiorentina 1 (Dainelli 26)
Inter 1 (Adriano 80) Att: 43,708

Lazio 1 (Fernando Couto 47)
Siena 1 (Portanova 67) Att: 32,122

Lecce 3 (Bojinov 35, 57, Vucinic 89)
Udinese 4 (Jankulovski 44, pen 90, Di Natale 72, Iaquinta 79) Att: 12,618

Milan 1 (Shevchenko 6)
Roma 1 (Montella 48) Att: 75,229

Palermo 1 (Gonzalez 74)
Parma 1 (Gilardino 37) Att: 32,951

Wednesday, November 10
Brescia 0
Milan 0 Att: 8,093

Chievo 1 (Tiribocchi 74)
Atalanta 0 Att: 7,218

Inter 2 (Mihajlovic 39, Adriano 71)
Bologna 2 (Petruzzi 53, Bellucci 87) Att: 48,692

Juventus 1 (Olivera 72)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 22,983

Livorno 1 (C Lucarelli 42)
Lazio 0 Att: 14,321

Parma 1 (Morfeo 79)
Reggina 0 Att: 6,090

Roma 0
Udinese 3 (Iaquinta 44, 82, Pizarro pen 60) Att: 40,390

Sampdoria 0
Cagliari 0 Att: 20,699

Siena 1 (Pecchia 29)
Lecce 1 (Cassetti 70) Att: 6,971

Thursday, November 11
Messina 0
Palermo 0 Att: 28,468

Sunday, November 14
Atalanta 0
Brescia 0 Att: 16,147

Cagliari 3 (Zola pen 6, Langella 33, Esposito 60)
Inter 3 (Stankovic 35, Martins 76, 88) Att: 20,104

Fiorentina 1 (Rigano 71)
Livorno 1 (C Lucarelli 77) Att: 33,143

Lazio 2 (Rocchi 7, Di Canio pen 85)
Bologna 1 (Tare 52) Att: 31,205

Lecce 0
Juventus 1 (Del Piero 15) Att: 30,482

Milan 2 (Shevchenko 26, 37)
Siena 1 (Argilli 31) Att: 63,507

Palermo 2 (Toni 18, Brienza 47)
Sampdoria 0 Att: 33,077

Parma 2 (Amauri og 54, Morfeo 77)
Chievo 2 (Amauri 62, Cesar 68) Att: 11,071

Reggina 1 (Bonazzoli 15)
Roma 0 Att: 14,919

Udinese 1 (Di Michele 53)
Messina 1 (Amoruso 12) Att: 13,732

Saturday, November 27
Livorno 1 (C Lucarelli 65)
Udinese 2 (Iaquinta 13, Di Michele 53) Att: 14,715

Siena 0
Roma 4 (Montella 68, 70, Totti 71, 90) Att: 10,205

Sunday, November 28
Atalanta 0
Reggina 1 (Paredes 12) Att: 11,695

Bologna 0
Lecce 0 Att: 20,604

Brescia 0
Palermo 2 (Zauli 10, Brienza 24) Att: 7,885

Chievo 0
Milan 1 (Crespo 50) Att: 23,406

Inter 2 (Vieri 79, Adriano 85)
Juventus 2 (Zalayeta 53, Ibrahimovic pen 66) Att: 78,471

Lazio 2 (Pandev 8, Oddo pen 70)
Cagliari 3 (Langella 34, Esposito 65, Zola 66) Att: 32,822

Messina 1 (Parisi pen 69)
Fiorentina 1 (Ariatti 54) Att: 26,088

Sampdoria 1 (Flachi pen 90)
Parma 0 Att: 21,479

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	13	10	2	1	25	6	32
Milan	13	8	4	1	19	8	28
Udinese	13	6	4	3	20	13	22
Cagliari	13	5	4	4	18	20	19
Palermo	13	4	6	3	11	9	18
Messina	13	4	6	3	18	18	18
Inter	13	2	11	0	25	22	17
Lecce	13	4	5	4	24	21	17
Sampdoria	13	5	2	6	9	10	17
Chievo	13	4	5	4	10	13	17
Roma	13	4	4	5	23	21	16
Fiorentina	13	3	7	3	13	11	16
Lazio	13	4	4	5	15	15	16
Reggina	13	4	4	5	10	12	16
Livorno	13	4	4	5	13	16	16
Brescia	13	4	2	7	10	18	14
Bologna	13	3	4	6	13	16	13
Parma	13	2	6	5	14	20	12
Siena	13	2	5	6	8	20	11
Atalanta	13	0	7	6	11	20	7

LEADING GOALSCORERS
11 Vincenzo Montella (Roma)
10 Adriano (Inter)
9 Andrii Shevchenko (Milan)

LATVIA

LATVIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skonto Riga	28	22	3	3	65	18	69
Metalurgs	28	21	3	4	85	27	66
Ventspils	28	16	7	5	64	28	55
Dinaburg	28	10	6	12	35	36	36
Jurmala	28	8	10	10	30	33	34
FK Riga	28	6	9	13	32	43	27
Ditton	28	7	5	16	20	62	26
Auda	28	0	1	27	13	97	1

LITHUANIA

LITHUANIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FBK Kaunas	28	20	5	3	49	19	65
Ekranas	28	20	2	6	59	22	62
Atlantas	28	15	5	8	36	29	50
Zalgiris Vilnius	28	10	7	11	32	38	37
Vetra	28	9	8	11	29	33	35
Silute	28	6	7	15	34	44	25
Suduva	28	5	7	16	31	55	22
FK Vilnius*	28	4	5	19	19	49	17

**Formerly Sviesa Vilnius*

POLAND

Nov 5: Legia 4 Polonia 1.
Nov 6: Odra 2 Katowice 2; Cracovia 4 Wisla P 0; Zaglebie 2 Pogon 2; Lech 2 Groclin 2.
Nov 7: Amica 1 Gornik L 0; Gornik Z 1 Wisla K 3.
Nov 13: Pogon 1 Cracovia 1; Polonia 2 Gornik Z 1; Amica 0 Zaglebie 2; Katowice 0 Legia 3; Wisla K 4 Lech 1.
Nov 14: Gornik L 2 Groclin 1.
Nov 19: Lech 1 Polonia 1.
Nov 20: Cracovia 0 Amica 1; Zaglebie 1 Gornik L 0; Gornik Z 4 Katowice 1; Legia 2 Wisla P 1; Odra 1 Pogon 0.
Nov 21: Groclin 2 Wisla K 4.

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wisla K	13	11	2	0	44	8	35
Legia	13	8	3	2	20	11	27
Groclin	13	8	1	4	22	16	25
Amica	13	7	3	3	19	12	24
Zaglebie	13	5	4	4	22	22	19
Cracovia	13	5	3	5	20	14	18
Polonia	13	5	3	5	15	21	18
Wisla P	13	5	2	6	17	20	17
Pogon	13	4	3	6	19	27	15
Gornik Z	13	3	4	6	17	17	13
Odra	13	4	1	8	14	18	13
Gornik L	13	4	0	9	13	23	12
Lech	13	3	3	7	16	27	12
Katowice	13	2	2	9	13	35	8

PORTUGAL

Friday, November 5
Beira Mar 3 (Tanque Silva 43, 55, Heitor 77)
Belenenses 3 (Antchouet 3, 66, 80)

Saturday, November 6
Boavista 2 (Jose Manuel pen 77, pen 90)
Penafiel 1 (Clayton 33)

Guimaraes 1 (Dragoner 47)
Maritimo 1 (Manduca 7)

Sunday, November 7
Academica 0
Uniao Leiria 1 (Krpan 2)

Benfica 4 (Karadas 31, Sokota 50, Geovanni 71, Simao 90)
Setubal 0

Moreirense 1 (Fernando 41)
Estoril 2 (Dorival 76, Yuri 80)

Nacional 0
Gil Vicente 0

Sporting Braga 3 (Jaime 2, Castanheira 8, Joao Tomas 49)
Rio Ave 0

Monday, November 8
FC Porto 3 (McCarthy 57, Diego 80, Carlos Alberto 86)
Sporting Lisbon 0

Friday, November 12
Estoril 0
Academica 1 (Rafael Gaucho 54)

Saturday, November 13
Belenenses 3 (Neca 19, Rodolfo Lima 50, Amaral 88)
Moreirense 0

Gil Vicente 0
FC Porto 2 (Ricardo Quaresma 30, Costinha 86)

Maritimo 1 (Pena 9)
Benfica 1 (Simao 15)

Penafiel 2 (Fernando Aguiar 2, Wesley pen 20)
Beira Mar 1 (Murray 10)

Setubal 1 (Igor 76)
Nacional 0

Sunday, November 14
Sporting Lisbon 6 (Douala 15, Hugo Viana 43, 44, Custodio 49, Liedson 81, Pinilla 90)
Boavista 1 (Flores 79)

Uniao Leiria 0
Sporting Braga 0

Monday, November 15
Rio Ave 1 (Evandro 45)
Guimaraes 1 (Alex 66)

Friday, November 19
Nacional 1 (Avalos 49)
Maritimo 1 (Manduca 46)

Saturday, November 20
Beira Mar 2 (Kingsley 34, Heitor 90)
Sporting Lisbon 2 (Douala 39, 52)

FC Porto 0
Boavista 1 (Cafu 90)

Sunday, November 21
Benfica 3 (Simao 3, 22, Sokota 30)
Rio Ave 3 (Franco 25, Paulo Cesar 60, Jacques 81)

Gil Vicente 2 (Nandinho 18, 58)
Setubal 1 (Manuel Jose 50)

Guimaraes 1 (Dragoner 32)
Uniao Leiria 1 (Caico 65)

Moreirense 2 (Lito 23, Afonso Martins 28)
Penafiel 2 (Wesley 3, Fernando Aguiar 19)

Sporting Braga 2 (Joao Alves 13, Cicero 87)
Estoril 0

Monday, November 22
Academica 1 (Dario 40)
Belenenses 1 (Jorge Tavares 77)

Friday, November 26
Boavista 3 (Cafu 25, 81, Jose Manuel 79)
Beira Mar 0

Saturday, November 27
Belenenses 1 (Antchouet 57)
Sporting Braga 2 (Pele og 58, Wender pen 73)

Sunday, November 28
Estoril 0
Guimaraes 1 (Nuno Assis 76)

Maritimo 1 (Leo Lima pen 33)
Gil Vicente 1 (Luis Coentrao 68)

Penafiel 3 (Clayton 20, Wesley pen 66, Roberto 68)
Academica 1 (Rafael Gaucho 39)

Rio Ave 4 (Delson 2, Paulo Cesar 41, Franco 49, Saulo 66)
Nacional 1 (Andre Pinto 82)

Sporting Lisbon 4 (Pinilla 9, Carlos Martins 20, Hugo Viana 65, Liedson 90)
Moreirense 1 (Afonso Martins 56)

Uniao Leiria 1 (Fangueiro 12)
Benfica 0

Monday, November 29
Setubal 0
FC Porto 1 (Jorge Costa 24)

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	12	7	4	1	19	7	25
Boavista	12	7	2	3	16	12	23
Benfica	12	6	4	2	19	11	22
Sporting Braga	12	6	4	2	17	11	22
Sporting Lisbon	12	6	3	3	26	15	21
Maritimo	12	5	5	2	15	11	20
Setubal	12	6	2	4	17	15	20
Rio Ave	12	3	8	1	17	14	17
Uniao Leiria	12	4	5	3	13	13	17
Belenenses	12	4	3	5	21	19	15
Penafiel	12	4	2	6	15	25	14
Guimaraes	12	3	4	5	9	11	13
Estoril	12	3	3	6	14	17	12
Nacional	12	3	3	6	14	19	12
Academica	12	3	2	7	11	17	11
Beira Mar	12	2	4	6	15	25	10
Gil Vicente	12	2	3	7	11	16	9
Moreirense	12	1	5	6	10	21	8

LEADING GOALSCORERS
9 Antchouet (Belenenses)
9 Liedson (Sporting Lisbon)
8 Simao Sabrosa (Benfica)

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shelbourne	36	19	11	6	57	37	68
Cork	36	18	11	7	52	32	65
Bohemians	36	15	15	6	51	30	60
Drogheda	36	15	7	14	45	43	52
Waterford	36	14	8	14	44	49	50
Longford	36	11	13	12	32	34	46
Derry	36	11	11	14	23	32	44
St Patrick's	36	11	9	16	38	49	42
Shamrock Rvrs	36	10	8	18	41	47	38
Dublin City	36	6	7	23	39	69	25

ROMANIA

Nov 6: Otelul 2 Dinamo 0; Rapid 3 Arges 2; Gloria 1 Farul 2; National 2 CFR Cluj 2.
Nov 7: Apulum 1 U Craiova 0; Brasov 1 Poli Iasi 2; Bacau 2 Steaua 2.
Nov 20: Arges 1 Apulum 1; Farul 2 Rapid 0; Steaua 3 Brasov 2; CFR Cluj 2 Bacau 0; National 0 Otelul 0.
Nov 21: Sportul 1 Gloria 0; U Craiova 0 Dinamo 1; Poli Iasi 3 Poli AEK 2.
Nov 26: Rapid 3 Sportul 0; Brasov 2 CFR Cluj 2.
Nov 27: Otelul 0 U Craiova 0; Apulum 2 Farul 3; Gloria 2 Poli Iasi 2; Bacau 1 National 0; Dinamo 4 Arges 0.
Nov 28: Poli AEK 1 Steaua 1.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua	14	9	3	2	30	13	30
Dinamo	15	9	0	6	29	20	27
National	15	8	3	4	26	17	27
Farul	15	8	3	4	22	13	27
Rapid	15	8	3	4	24	16	27
CFR Cluj	15	6	6	3	23	19	24
Gloria	15	6	2	7	27	24	20
Otelul	15	6	2	7	11	12	20
Bacau	15	5	5	5	11	13	20
Sportul	14	5	4	5	17	16	19
Poli Iasi	15	4	4	7	16	25	16
Arges	15	3	6	6	18	25	15
Apulum	14	4	3	7	17	31	15
Brasov	15	4	2	9	18	26	14
U Craiova	15	3	5	7	14	22	14
Poli AEK	14	3	3	8	15	26	12

RUSSIA

Nov 8: Alaniya 1 Amkar 2; CSKA 0 Dinamo 0; Kuban 1 Shinnik 0; Rostov 1 Rubin 0; Kryliya Sovetov 1 Rotor 0; Spartak 0 Saturn 2; Lokomotiv 3 Torpedo 1; Zenit 2 FC Moscow 3.
Nov 12: Amkar 1 Kuban 2; Dinamo 1 Spartak 1; Rotor 2 Zenit 5; Rubin 4 Alaniya 1; Saturn 1 Kryliya Sovetov 2; Shinnik 0 Lokomotiv 2; Torpedo 4 Rostov 1; FC Moscow 1 CSKA 4.

RUSSIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lokomotiv	30	18	7	5	44	19	61
CSKA	30	17	9	4	53	22	60
Kryliya Sovetov	30	17	5	8	50	41	56
Zenit	30	17	5	8	55	37	56
Torpedo	30	16	6	8	53	37	54
Shinnik	30	12	8	10	29	29	44
Saturn	30	10	11	9	37	30	41
Spartak	30	11	7	12	43	44	40
FC Moscow	30	10	10	10	38	39	40
Rubin	30	7	12	11	32	31	33
Amkar	30	6	12	12	27	42	30
Rostov	30	7	8	15	28	42	29
Dinamo	30	6	11	13	27	38	29
Alaniya	30	7	7	16	28	52	28
Kuban	30	6	10	14	26	42	28
Rotor	30	4	10	16	28	53	22

SCOTLAND

Saturday, November 6
Celtic 2 (McGeady 44, Thompson pen 64)
Kilmarnock 1 (Nish 89) Att: 57,348

Dundee 1 (Sutton 86)
Dundee Utd 0 Att: 9,845

Dunfermline 1 (Darren Young 28)
Inverness 1 (Fox 79) Att: 4,921

Hibernian 1 (Murray 79)
Motherwell 0 Att: 10,022

Sunday, November 7
Aberdeen 0
Hearts 1 (Hartley pen 60) Att: 13,055

Livingston 1 (Easton 61)
Rangers 4 (Lovenkrands 37, Novo 55, Thompson 67, Namouchi 84) Att: 8,780

Saturday, November 13
Aberdeen 2 (Tod og 34, Mackie 50)
Dunfermline 1 (Donnelly 70) Att: 10,398

Celtic 3 (Sutton 3, Hartson 53, 77)
Inverness 0 Att: 57,654

Dundee Utd 1 (McCracken 78)
Livingston 0 Att: 5,507

Kilmarnock 1 (Leven 31)
Hearts 1 (Wyness 69) Att: 6,129

Motherwell 3 (Clarkson 44, Paterson 53, 64)
Dundee 0 Att: 4,406

Sunday, November 14
Hibernian 0
Rangers 1 (Prso pen 65) Att: 13,829

Saturday, November 20
Dundee 1 (Lovell 62)
Hibernian 4 (Beuzelin 17, Riordan 43, Orman 72, Shiels 88) Att: 5,274

Dunfermline 4 (Nicholson 30, Mehmet 38, Wilson 57, Brewster 90)
Kilmarnock 1 (Wales 80) Att: 4,344

Hearts 0
Motherwell 1 (Foran pen 28) Att: 10,598

Livingston 0
Aberdeen 2 (Foster 1, Mackie 22) Att: 4,569

Rangers 2 (Novo pen 15, Prso 36)
Celtic 0 Att: 50,043

Tuesday, November 23
Inverness 1 (Juanjo 50)
Dundee Utd 1 (McIntyre 63) Att: 1,125

Saturday, November 27
Aberdeen 1 (Tosh 26)
Dundee Utd 0 Att: 12,038

Hibernian 2 (Beuzelin 39, Riordan 47)
Inverness 1 (Juanjo 34) Att: 9,728

Kilmarnock 1 (Johnston 25)
Livingston 3 (Hamilton 7, 40, O'Brien 60) Att: 5,389

Motherwell 2 (Tod og 26, Foran 63)
Dunfermline 1 (Tod 65) Att: 5,084

Sunday, November 28
Dundee 2 (Lovell 35, 76)
Celtic 2 (Camara 53, Hartson 62) Att: 9,539

Rangers 3 (McAllister og 45, Novo 56, 81)
Hearts 2 (Hartley pen 16, De Vries 66) Att: 48,494

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	16	12	3	1	33	7	39
Celtic	16	12	2	2	40	17	38
Aberdeen	16	9	4	3	19	14	31
Hibernian	16	8	3	5	26	23	27
Motherwell	16	7	2	7	23	21	23
Hearts	16	6	5	5	15	13	23
Kilmarnock	16	6	2	8	22	28	20
Dunfermline	16	4	4	8	16	22	16
Inverness	16	3	4	9	16	26	13
Dundee	16	3	4	9	17	31	13
Dundee Utd	16	2	6	8	15	27	12
Livingston	16	3	3	10	15	28	12

LEADING GOALSCORERS
13 John Hartson (Celtic)
11 Nacho Novo (Rangers)
8 Henri Camara (Celtic)

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

Nov 6: Vojvodina 1 Hajduk K 1; Borac 0 Obilic 0; Zeleznik 2 Buducnost P 2; Red Star 4 Radnicki NB 0; OFK 3 Smederevo 0; Zeta 2 Sutjeska 1; Hajduk B 0 Cukaricki 3.
Nov 7: Zemun 0 Partizan 5.
Nov 20: Cukaricki 3 Borac 2; Sutjeska 0 Hajduk B 0; Partizan 3 Zeta 2; Hajduk K 0 Zemun 1; Smederevo 1 Vojvodina 0; Obilic 2 Zeleznik 0.
Nov 21: Radnicki NB 1 OFK 2; Buducnost P 1 Red Star 3.
Nov 27: Borac 1 Zeleznik 0; Red Star 4 Obilic 1; OFK 1 Buducnost P 0; Vojvodina 2 Radnicki NB 1; Zemun 2 Smederevo 0; Zeta 3 Hajduk K 0; Cukaricki 3 Sutjeska 0.
Nov 28: Hajduk B 0 Partizan 3.

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan	14	12	2	0	36	7	38
Red Star	14	11	2	1	33	8	35
Zeta	14	10	1	3	28	12	31
OFK	14	8	1	5	22	16	25
Zemun	14	6	3	5	18	19	21
Buducnost P	14	6	2	6	18	19	20
Vojvodina	14	5	4	5	17	16	19
Hajduk K	14	4	5	5	15	17	17
Smederevo	14	4	5	5	9	13	17
Cukaricki	14	4	4	6	14	15	16
Borac	14	4	4	6	11	19	16
Sutjeska	14	4	4	6	10	20	16
Radnicki NB	14	4	3	7	13	20	15
Obilic	14	2	4	8	14	27	10
Zeleznik	14	1	4	9	9	21	7
Hajduk B	14	1	4	9	10	28	7

SPAIN

Saturday, November 6
Albacete 0
Betis 0 Att: 15,000

Barcelona 2 (Xavi 23, Eto'o 35)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Fran 7) Att: 81,284

Sunday, November 7
Atletico Madrid 1 (Salva 82)
Zaragoza 1 (Savio 2) Att: 50,000

Getafe 1 (Michel 18)
Valencia 0 Att: 14,000

Levante 1 (Jesule 68)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 18,700

Malaga 0
Real Madrid 2 (Figo pen 24, Owen 79) Att: 30,000

Racing Santander 2 (Moran 66, Javi Guerrero 86)
Numancia 0 Att: 12,684

Real Sociedad 0
Espanyol 2 (Rodriguez 51, 75) Att: 23,837

Sevilla 1 (Antonio Lopez 71)
Mallorca 1 (Pereyra 78) Att: 40,000

Villarreal 3 (Riquelme pen 37, 65, Rodriguez 39)
Osasuna 0 Att: 16,000

Saturday, November 13
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Urzaiz 47, 52)
Villarreal 1 (Jose Mari 60) Att: 27,000

Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Diego Tristan pen 56)
Levante 0 Att: 18,000

Espanyol 2 (Dani 11, Maxi Rodriguez pen 81)
Racing Santander 1 (Javi Guerrero 55) Att: 19,665

Getafe 1 (Gallardo 47)
Malaga 0 Att: 12,000

Numancia 2 (Osorio 82, Antonio 89)
Sevilla 1 (Puerta 64) Att: 7,000

Osasuna 1 (Morales 71)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 15,825

Valencia 0
Zaragoza 0 Att: 45,000

Sunday, November 14
Betis 2 (Edu 49, Ricardo Oliveira 69)
Barcelona 1 (Gerard 72) Att: 45,000

Mallorca 1 (Arango 26)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Colsa 83) Att: 18,000

Real Madrid 6 (Ronaldo 2, 90, Zidane 29, Raul 31, Samuel 48, Owen 88)
Albacete 1 (Francisco 14) Att: 79,000

Saturday, November 20
Barcelona 3 (Eto'o 29, Van Bronckhorst 43, Ronaldinho pen 76)
Real Madrid 0 Att: 97,000

Malaga 0
Valencia 2 (Corradi 44, Xisco 47) Att: 21,000

Villarreal 0
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Diego Tristan 31, Luque 59) Att: 17,000

Sunday, November 21
Albacete 1 (Buades 50)
Getafe 1 (Gabi 85) Att: 15,000

Atletico Madrid 2 (Pablo Ibanez 51, Fernando Torres 77)
Numancia 0 Att: 52,000

Levante 1 (Rivera pen 6)
Betis 2 (Ricardo Oliveira pen 27, Edu 82) Att: 18,573

Racing Santander 1 (Javi Guerrero 47)
Osasuna 1 (Morales 20) Att: 12,756

Real Sociedad 3 (Nihat 57, 67, Gabilondo 74)
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Ezquerro 40, Urzaiz 44) Att: 26,366

Sevilla 1 (Julio Baptista 39)
Espanyol 0 Att: 40,000

Zaragoza 0
Mallorca 1 (Luis Garcia 20) Att: 30,000

Saturday, November 27
Athletic Bilbao 3 (Ezquerro 7, Gurpegi 25, Urzaiz 63)
Racing Santander 0 Att: 32,000

Espanyol 2 (Dani 53, 75)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Kameni og 55) Att: 17,120

Getafe 1 (Craioveanu 58)
Barcelona 2 (Marquez 20, Deco 23) Att: 14,000

Sunday, November 28
Betis 2 (Ricardo Oliveira 20, 40)
Villarreal 1 (Guayre 54) Att: 35,000

Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Luque 14, Munitis 27)
Real Sociedad 2 (Nihat 34, Kovacevic 49) Att: 18,000

Malaga 0
Albacete 2 (Viaud 8, Momo 47) Att: 18,000

Numancia 2 (Osorio 10, 33)
Zaragoza 1 (Milito 36) Att: 10,000

Osasuna 4 (Inaki Munoz 21, Webo 56, Morales 80, Moha 88)
Sevilla 1 (Carlos 37) Att: 16,000

Real Madrid 5 (Ronaldo 43, 52, Figo 50, Beckham 55, Owen 87)
Levante 0 Att: 76,000

Valencia 2 (Moretti 30, Baraja 63)
Mallorca 0 Att: 45,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	13	10	2	1	26	8	32
Real Madrid	13	8	1	4	21	9	25
Espanyol	13	7	2	4	15	8	23
Valencia	13	6	4	3	21	11	22
Betis	13	5	6	2	18	16	21
Sevilla	13	6	3	4	14	15	21
Osasuna	13	6	2	5	18	19	20
Dep La Coruna	13	5	5	3	16	17	20
Atletico Madrid	13	5	4	4	14	10	19
Levante	13	6	1	6	16	20	19
Zaragoza	13	5	3	5	19	19	18
Athletic Bilbao	13	4	3	6	17	18	15
Real Sociedad	13	4	3	6	14	17	15
R Santander	13	4	3	6	10	16	15
Villarreal	13	3	5	5	14	11	14
Albacete	13	3	5	5	11	17	14
Getafe	13	4	1	8	12	18	13
Malaga	13	3	3	7	10	15	12
Numancia	13	3	2	8	8	22	11
Mallorca	13	2	4	7	10	18	10

LEADING GOALSCORERS
10 Samuel Eto'o (Barcelona)
8 Ricardo Oliveira (Betis)
8 Ismael Urzaiz (Athletic Bilbao)

SWITZERLAND

Nov 7: Thun 2 Schaffhausen 1; Aarau 3 Zurich 1; Grasshopper 0 St Gallen 0; Basle 2 Young Boys 1; Servette 1 Neuchatel Xamax 2.
Nov 14: Neuchatel Xamax 2 Grasshopper 0; St Gallen 3 Thun 1; Young Boys 1 Aarau 1; Zurich 2 Servette 1; Schaffhausen 1 Basle 0.
Nov 28: Aarau 2 Schaffhausen 1; Basle 1 St Gallen 0; Servette 2 Young Boys 1; Thun 0 Grasshopper 1; Zurich 1 Neuchatel Xamax 2.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Basle	16	9	4	3	30	15	31
Neuchatel X	16	8	4	4	25	18	28
Thun	16	7	3	6	21	15	24
Aarau	16	6	5	5	24	22	23
Young Boys	16	5	6	5	27	24	21
Zurich	16	6	3	7	21	22	21
Grasshopper	16	4	7	5	12	22	19
Servette*	16	5	4	7	19	26	16
St Gallen	16	3	6	7	20	27	15
Schaffhausen	16	3	6	7	19	27	15

**3pts deducted for licensing irregularities during the 2003-04 season*

TURKEY

Nov 5: Diyarbakirspor 2 Galatasaray 0.
Nov 6: Istanbulspor 1 Denizlispor 1; Sebatspor 1 Malatyaspor 1; Fenerbahce 1 Ankaraspor 0; Samsunspor 1 Gaziantepspor 3.
Nov 7: Kayserispor 1 Genclerbirligi 2; Konyaspor 2 Besiktas 2; Ankaragucu 0 Trabzonspor 2; Rizespor 2 Sakaryaspor 0.
Nov 20: Sakaryaspor 4 Samsunspor 2; Trabzonspor 0 Fenerbahce 2; Ankaraspor 1 Konyaspor 3; Galatasaray 1 Malatyaspor 1.
Nov 21: Denizlispor 2 Kayserispor 1; Besiktas 2 Rizespor 2; Genclerbirligi 1 Sebatspor 1; Diyarbakirspor 0 Ankaragucu 1; Gaziantepspor 0 Istanbulspor 1.
Nov 26: Ankaragucu 0 Galatasaray 1.
Nov 27: Fenerbahce 3 Diyarbakirspor 0; Konyaspor 1 Trabzonspor 1; Rizespor 2 Ankaraspor 1.
Nov 28: Malatyaspor 0 Genclerbirligi 2; Sebatspor 2 Denizlispor 1; Kayserispor 3 Gaziantepspor 1; Istanbulspor 3 Sakaryaspor 0; Samsunspor 2 Besiktas 4.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fenerbahce	14	12	1	1	34	8	37
Galatasaray	14	10	2	2	26	10	32
Trabzonspor	14	9	3	2	27	12	30
Rizespor	14	7	4	3	20	11	25
Denizlispor	14	8	1	5	20	17	25
Malatyaspor	14	6	3	5	22	17	21
Genclerbirligi	14	6	3	5	17	16	21
Besiktas	14	5	5	4	30	22	20
Konyaspor	14	4	7	3	25	26	19
Gaziantepspor	14	5	3	6	17	18	18
Samsunspor	14	5	2	7	22	25	17
Ankaraspor	14	4	3	7	18	22	15
Ankaragucu	14	4	3	7	9	17	15
Diyarbakirspor	14	4	3	7	12	22	15
Istanbulspor	14	3	4	7	13	21	13
Kayserispor	14	3	2	9	17	29	11
Sebatspor	14	1	6	7	16	31	9
Sakaryaspor	14	2	1	11	11	32	7

UKRAINE

Nov 7: Zakarpattya 1 Kryvbas 1; Metalurh D 2 Vorskla 0; Chornomorets 1 Metalurh Z 0; Dynamo 1 Arsenal 1; Tavriya 2 Shakhtar 1; Volyn 4 Metalist 2; Illichivets 1 Obolon 1; Dnipro 0 Borysfen 0.
Nov 11: Borysfen 0 Metalurh D 1; Arsenal 2 Chornomorets 1; Kryvbas 0 Volyn 0; Metalurh Z 1 Dnipro 1; Vorskla 1 Tavriya 0; Obolon 0 Dynamo 7; Metalist 1 Illichivets 0; Shakhtar 1 Zakarpattya 0.
Nov 28: Dnipro 1 Arsenal 0; Metalurh D 1 Metalurh Z 0; Illichivets 2 Kryvbas 0; Dynamo 3 Metalist 0; Vorskla 1 Borysfen 1; Chornomorets 3 Obolon 1.
Dec 2: Volyn 1 Shakhtar 3.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shakhtar	14	12	0	2	27	7	36
Dynamo	14	11	2	1	31	7	35
Metalurh D	14	10	2	2	23	13	32
Volyn	14	7	3	4	17	15	24
Illichivets	14	5	5	4	23	18	20
Chornomorets	14	6	2	6	14	12	20
Dnipro	14	5	5	4	17	18	20
Metalist	14	6	2	6	17	20	20
Kryvbas	14	4	6	4	12	13	18
Arsenal	14	4	5	5	15	19	17
Vorskla	14	3	3	8	7	16	12
Metalurh Z	14	1	8	5	9	17	11
Obolon	14	2	5	7	8	20	11
Zakarpattya	13	2	4	7	9	16	10
Tavriya	13	2	3	8	10	17	9
Borysfen	14	0	7	7	6	17	7

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday, November 5
Argentinos Juniors 3 (Fleitas 17, 63, Seltzer 85)
Independiente 0

Saturday, November 6
Banfield 0
Velez Sarsfield 0

Colon Santa Fe 1 (Blanco 61)
Rosario Central 2 (Vitti 30, 40)

Racing Club 1 (Mirosevic 79)
Huracan 0

Sunday, November 7
Arsenal 1 (Hirsig 13)
San Lorenzo 1 (Lavezzi 36)

Estudiantes 3 (Carrusca 25, Sosa 45, Pavone 90)
Olimpo 2 (Franco 30, Galvan 39)

Instituto 2 (Lux 36, Barone 41)
Gimnasia LP 2 (Licht 30, Lobos 35)

Newell's Old Boys 0
Lanus 0

Quilmes 1 (Bastianini 66)
Almagro 0

River Plate 2 (Fernandez 56, Cuevas 89)
Boca Juniors 0

Friday, November 12
Independiente 1 (Turu Flores 58)
Instituto 1 (Jimenez 41)

San Lorenzo 1 (Barrientos 54)
Newell's Old Boys 2 (Scocco 14, Borghello 79)

Saturday, November 13
Almagro 0
Racing Club 2 (Lopez 74, 88)

Boca Juniors 0
Estudiantes 0

Gimnasia LP 0
River Plate 0

Huracan 2 (Caggiano 4, Dragojevich 72)
Colon Santa Fe 3 (Fuertes 10, Hernandez pen 65, Blanco 83)

Lanus 1 (Valeri 82)
Quilmes 0

Olimpo 1 (Delorte 76)
Arsenal 0

Rosario Central 3 (Ledesma 9, Villa 82, 90)
Banfield 1 (Moreira og 32)

Velez Sarsfield 1 (Zarate 63)
Argentinos Juniors 1 (Piriz Alvez 39)

Friday, November 19
Instituto 1 (Jimenez 78)
Velez Sarsfield 0

Saturday, November 20
Quilmes 1 (Caneo 36)
San Lorenzo 1 (Santana 90)

Racing Club 2 (Lopez 1, pen 39)
Colon Santa Fe 1 (Moreno y Fabianesi 31)

Sunday, November 21
Almagro 2 (Sparapani 12, Barbosa 69)
Lanus 2 (Graf 56, Tilger 58)

Argentinos Juniors 0
Rosario Central 2 (Villa 64, 85)

Arsenal 1 (Gonzalez 41)
Boca Juniors 0

Banfield 3 (San Martin 23, Amato pen 38, Tavio 49)
Huracan 1 (Izquierdo 29)

Estudiantes 0
Gimnasia LP 0

Newell's Old Boys 1 (Ortega 45)
Olimpo 1 (Paez 62)

River Plate 3 (Fernandez 45, Lopez 50, 63)
Independiente 0

Friday, November 26
Independiente 2 (Aguero 23, Carrizo 47)
Estudiantes 2 (Sosa 2, Carrusca pen 7)

Saturday, November 27
Colon Santa Fe 1 (Bedoya 63)
Banfield 1 (Amato 47)

Lanus 2 (De Bruno 77, Graf 78)
Racing Club 3 (Lopez pen 43, Almiron og 47, Guerrero 76)

Rosario Central 0
Instituto 0

San Lorenzo 1 (Peirone 23)
Almagro 1 (Sparapani 18)

Sunday, November 28
Boca Juniors 1 (Boselli 76)
Newell's Old Boys 3 (Borghello 30, 35, Maidana 52)

Gimnasia LP 0
Arsenal 3 (Calderon 1, Denis 12, Escobar og 68)

Huracan 3 (Caggiano 49, 90, Zapata 53)
Argentinos Juniors 1 (Biglia 60)

Olimpo 4 (Asprilla 41, Laspada 52, Estevez 58, Delorte 90)
Quilmes 2 (Gonzalez 7, Brana 66)

Velez Sarsfield 1 (Zarate 31)
River Plate 0

ARGENTINA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newell's OB	17	9	6	2	20	9	33
Estudiantes	17	7	9	1	21	10	30
Velez Sarsfield	17	9	3	5	18	15	30
River Plate	17	8	5	4	26	19	29
Rosario Central	17	7	6	4	17	12	27
Banfield	17	6	8	3	24	16	26
Lanus	17	6	8	3	23	21	26
San Lorenzo	17	6	6	5	22	19	24
Colon Santa Fe	17	6	6	5	21	18	24
Gimnasia LP	17	6	6	5	16	21	24
Racing Club	17	7	2	8	18	18	23
Quilmes	17	6	5	6	14	17	23
Boca Juniors	17	6	4	7	20	15	22
Arsenal	17	4	8	5	14	14	20
Almagro	17	4	8	5	13	16	20
Independiente	17	5	5	7	20	24	20
Argentinos Jnrs	17	4	4	9	12	17	16
Olimpo	17	3	4	10	18	28	13
Instituto	17	2	7	8	13	26	13
Huracan	17	2	4	11	17	32	10

LEADING GOALSCORERS
11 Lisandro Lopez (Racing Club)
8 Rolando Zarate (Velez Sarsfield)

BOLIVIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP 2nd stage

Nov 6: San Jose 2 Blooming 1.
Nov 7: Bolivar 2 The Strongest 0; Oriente 1 Jorge Wilstermann 3; Real Potosi 3 Union Central 1.
Nov 10: Bolivar 6 Blooming 2.
Nov 20: The Strongest 2 Real Potosi 1; Union Central 1 Blooming 3.
Nov 21: Oriente 3 San Jose 2; Jorge Wilstermann 1 Bolivar 0.
Nov 24: Blooming 1 The Strongest 0; Real Potosi 3 Jorge Wilstermann 1; San Jose 2 Union Central 2.
Nov 27: Real Potosi 3 Oriente 2.
Nov 28: Bolivar 0 San Jose 1; Union Central 1 The Strongest 2; Blooming 0 Jorge Wilstermann 1.
Dec 1: Blooming 2 Bolivar 0; Real Potosi 5 San Jose 2; The Strongest 0 Jorge Wilstermann 1; Union Central 2 Oriente 3.

BOLIVIA – CLOSING – 2ND STAGE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
J Wilstermann	9	5	2	2	10	7	17
Oriente	8	5	0	3	16	12	15
The Strongest	9	5	0	4	12	8	15
Real Potosi	9	4	2	3	21	19	14
San Jose	9	3	3	3	15	19	12
Bolivar	8	3	2	3	15	12	11
Blooming	9	3	1	5	13	17	10
Union Central	9	1	2	6	12	20	5

BRAZIL

Nov 6: Flamengo 1 Guarani 0; Palmeiras 1 Paysandu 0; Parana 1 Gremio 0; Goias 1 Atletico Mineiro 0.
Nov 7: Criciuma 1 Santos 1; Internacional 3 Corinthians 0; Fluminense 1 Atletico Paranaense 2; Vitoria 1 Juventude 1; Ponte Preta 0 Sao Caetano 3; Cruzeiro 3 Vasco da Gama 2; Sao Paulo 5 Botafogo 2; Coritiba 2 Figueirense 0.
Nov 10: Sao Caetano 2 Parana 1.
Nov 13: Corinthians 1 Fluminense 1; Gremio 6 Ponte Preta 1; Botafogo 4 Coritiba 1; Sao Caetano 4 Cruzeiro 1.
Nov 14: Figueirense 0 Palmeiras 1; Vasco da Gama 0 Sao Paulo 0; Paysandu 1 Parana 1; Guarani 0 Vitoria 0; Atletico Mineiro 6 Flamengo 1; Santos 2 Goias 1; Atletico Paranaense 6 Criciuma 1; Juventude 2 Internacional 3.
Nov 20: Fluminense 0 Figueirense 2; Parana 1 Atletico Mineiro 0; Vitoria 2 Gremio 0; Palmeiras 0 Guarani 2.
Nov 21: Criciuma 1 Paysandu 0; Internacional 1 Sao Caetano 0; Flamengo 0 Botafogo 0; Goias 3 Vasco da Gama 2; Ponte Preta 2 Atletico Paranaense 3; Cruzeiro 0 Corinthians 1; Sao Paulo 4 Juventude 0; Coritiba 0 Santos 1.
Nov 27: Figueirense 2 Atletico Mineiro 1; Botafogo 1 Guarani 0; Parana 2 Goias 1; Cruzeiro 2 Fluminense 3; Sao Paulo 2 Internacional 1.
Nov 28: Gremio 3 Atletico Paranaense 3; Vasco da Gama 1 Juventude 1; Paysandu 1 Santos 1; Sao Caetano 2 Corinthians 1; Ponte Preta 1 Criciuma 0; Coritiba 5 Vitoria 1; Palmeiras 1 Flamengo 2.

BRAZIL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At Paranaense	43	24	10	9	87	52	82
Santos	43	24	8	11	93	56	80
Sao Paulo	43	23	9	11	73	39	78
Sao Caetano	43	23	8	12	63	38	77
Palmeiras	43	21	11	11	70	42	74
Goias	43	20	8	15	79	67	68
Juventude	43	19	10	14	58	63	67
Corinthians	43	17	14	12	44	50	65
Ponte Preta	43	18	7	18	40	69	61
Figueirense	43	16	12	15	53	52	60
Fluminense	43	16	12	15	62	67	60
Internacional	43	17	7	19	60	57	58
Coritiba	43	14	15	14	49	45	57
Cruzeiro	43	15	8	20	63	73	53
Parana	43	14	9	20	49	69	51
Vasco da Gama	43	13	12	18	61	63	51
Botafogo	43	11	17	15	60	67	50
Criciuma	43	13	10	20	55	70	49
Flamengo	43	12	13	18	44	50	49
Paysandu	43	12	13	18	50	73	49
Vitoria	43	13	9	21	66	77	48
At Mineiro	43	10	16	17	56	66	46
Guarani	43	9	16	18	37	50	43
Gremio	43	9	12	22	59	72	39

CHILE

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP 1st stage

Nov 4: U de Chile 0 U Catolica 0.
Nov 6: Colo Colo 3 Dep La Serena 1; Santiago Wanderers 3 Audax Italiano 2.
Nov 7: U Catolica 0 Cobresal 1; Union Espanola 2 Everton 1; U de Concepcion 2 Huachipato 0; Dep Temuco 4 Cobreloa 4; Coquimbo Unido 1 U de Chile 3; Rangers 2 Palestino 3; Puerto Montt 1 San Felipe 1.
Nov 10: Coquimbo Unido 1 Colo Colo 0.
Nov 14: U de Concepcion 0 U de Chile 0.

CHILE – CLOSING – GROUP 1 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Audax Italiano	17	7	5	5	33	24	26
Cobreloa	17	6	7	4	37	26	25
Union Espanola	17	6	5	6	24	20	23
Dep La Serena	17	4	4	9	23	38	16

GROUP 2 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Coquimbo U	17	4	6	7	21	26	18
San Felipe*	17	5	6	6	18	25	18
Puerto Montt*	17	5	5	7	16	20	17
Sant W'derers	17	4	2	11	24	36	14

GROUP 3 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	17	9	5	3	28	18	32
U de Chile*	17	9	6	2	27	14	30
Dep Temuco	17	4	9	4	34	36	21
Palestino	17	6	3	8	23	28	21
Rangers	17	3	6	8	19	33	15

GROUP 4 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U Catolica	17	9	5	3	32	19	32
Cobresal	17	8	4	5	32	26	28
U de Concepcion	17	8	4	5	22	16	28
Everton	17	6	4	7	20	26	22
Huachipato	17	6	2	9	24	26	20

**3pts deducted for non-payment of players*

Top two from each group and the three third-placed sides with most points qualified for play-offs; the third-placed side with fewest points and the fourth-placed side with most points entered qualifying play-off for the last play-off berth

Qualifying play-off

Nov 21: Puerto Montt 1 Everton 2.

Play-offs – 1st rnd

1st legs
Nov 24: Cobreloa 5 Audax Italiano 2; Union Espanola 0 U de Concepcion 0; Everton 3 Cobresal 2; Coquimbo Unido 3 Colo Colo 7.
Nov 25: San Felipe 2 U Catolica 2; Dep Temuco 2 U de Chile 0.

2nd legs
Nov 27: Colo Colo 1 Coquimbo Unido 1 *Colo Colo 8-4 on agg*; Audax Italiano 2 Cobreloa 1 *Cobreloa 6-4 on agg.*
Nov 28: Cobresal 1 Everton 0 *Agg 3-3. Cobresal 3-1 on pens*; U de Chile 2 Dep Temuco 0 *Agg 2-2. U de Chile 5-3 on pens*; U de Concepcion 1 Union Espanola 1 *Agg 1-1. Union Espanola 3-1 on pens*; U Catolica 3 San Felipe 0 *U Catolica 5-2 on agg.*

Dep Temuco and Everton also qualified for quarter-finals as best losers

COLOMBIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP 1st stage

Nov 6: Millonarios 1 Bucaramanga 2.
Nov 7: Dep Pasto 3 At Huila 2; Pereira 1 Indep Medellin 1; Tolima 0 Tulua 1; Magdalena 1 Dep Cali 1; America 2 Envigado 1; Quindio 1 At Junior 1; Chico 2 Indep Santa Fe 2; At Nacional 2 Once Caldas 0.

COLOMBIA – CLOSING – 1st STAGE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	18	13	3	2	32	14	42
Bucaramanga	18	10	4	4	23	16	34
Tolima	18	10	3	5	27	20	33
Dep Cali	18	9	3	6	24	17	30
At Nacional	18	9	3	6	24	18	30
Indep Medellin	18	8	5	5	24	13	29
Once Caldas	18	8	4	6	30	19	28
At Junior	18	7	7	4	26	21	28
Envigado	18	7	5	6	26	20	26
Indep Santa Fe	18	7	4	7	25	24	25
Quindio	18	7	4	7	21	29	25
Tulua	18	6	4	8	14	19	22
At Huila	18	5	3	10	21	25	18
Chico	18	4	6	8	15	24	18
Magdalena	18	5	2	11	11	27	17
Dep Pasto	18	3	8	7	10	16	17
Millonarios	18	3	4	11	14	29	13
Pereira	18	3	4	11	9	25	13

Top eight qualified for play-offs

Play-offs

Nov 11: America 1 Once Caldas 2.
Nov 14: Tolima 4 Once Caldas 1.
Nov 18: Once Caldas 0 At Nacional 1.
Nov 21: At Nacional 0 Once Caldas 0; America 2 Tolima 3; At Junior 3 Dep Cali 0; Bucaramanga 0 Indep Medellin 0.
Nov 24: Once Caldas 1 America 4; Indep Medellin 3 At Junior 2; Dep Cali 2 Bucaramanga 0.
Nov 25: Tolima 1 At Nacional 2.
Nov 27: Dep Cali 1 Indep Medellin 1.
Nov 28: At Nacional 0 America 0; Once Caldas 1 Tolima 0; At Junior 2 Bucaramanga 1.

COLOMBIA – CLOSING PLAY-OFFS – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At Nacional	4	2	2	0	3	1	8
Once Caldas	6	2	1	3	5	10	7
Tolima	4	2	0	2	8	6	6
America	4	1	1	2	7	6	4

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At Junior	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Indep Medellin	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Dep Cali	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Bucaramanga	3	0	1	2	1	4	1

ECUADOR

OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

Nov 5: LDU Quito 1 El Nacional 1.
Nov 7: Dep Cuenca 1 Barcelona 0; Aucas 0 El Nacional 2; Olmedo 4 LDU Quito 2.
Nov 21: LDU Quito 1 Dep Cuenca 2; El Nacional 1 Olmedo 2; Barcelona 2 Aucas 1.
Nov 28: Aucas 2 Barcelona 2; Olmedo 2 El Nacional 1; Dep Cuenca 1 LDU Quito 1.

ECUADOR – CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Cuenca	6	5	1	0	10	3	16.5 [0.5]
Barcelona	6	3	1	2	10	9	12 [2]
Olmedo	6	3	0	3	10	10	10 [1]
LDU Quito	6	2	2	2	8	8	9 [1]
El Nacional	6	1	2	3	8	11	5.5 [0.5]
Aucas	6	1	0	5	5	10	5 [2]

Bonus points from opening and closing championships in brackets

PARAGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Nov 6: Libertad 0 12 de Octubre 0; Cerro Porteno 5 Guarani 0.
Nov 7: Sport Colombia 1 Sportivo Luqueno 1; Tacuary 1 Sol de America 1; Nacional 1 Olimpia 2.
Nov 20: 12 de Octubre 2 Sol de America 3; Guarani 0 Tacuary 0; Libertad 1 Sport Colombia 1.
Nov 21: Sportivo Luqueno 3 Nacional 3; Olimpia 0 Cerro Porteno 1.
Nov 24: Sport Colombia 0 12 de Octubre 0; Tacuary 3 Olimpia 2; Sol de America 0 Guarani 1; Nacional 2 Libertad 1; Cerro Porteno 2 Sportivo Luqueno 0.
Nov 28: Olimpia 2 Sol de America 2; Sportivo Luqueno 2 Tacuary 3; Libertad 4 Cerro Porteno 3; 12 de Octubre 1 Guarani 2.
Nov 29: Sport Colombia 1 Nacional 2.

PARAGUAY – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cerro Porteno	17	11	2	4	28	12	35
Libertad	17	9	3	5	26	21	30
Nacional	17	7	5	5	28	23	26
Tacuary	17	4	11	2	14	13	23
Sport Colombia	17	5	6	6	21	22	21
Sp Luqueno	17	4	8	5	22	25	20
Guarani	17	4	8	5	18	28	20
12 de Octubre	17	3	8	6	18	21	17
Sol de America	17	.4	5	8	21	26	17
Olimpia	17	4	4	9	21	26	16

PERU

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Nov 3: Universidad SMP 0 Union Huaral 2; Sport Boys 2 Sporting Cristal 2; Dep Wanka 2 Universitario 2; Melgar 3 Estudiantes 0; Alianza Lima 0 Cienciano 0; Universidad CV 0 Coronel Bolognesi 4.
Nov 4: Alianza Atletico 3 At Universidad 2.
Nov 6: Universidad CV 1 Sporting Cristal 0.
Nov 7: Universidad SMP 2 Melgar 1; Alianza Atletico 1 Coronel Bolognesi 2; Sport Boys 3 Union Huaral 2; Universitario 1 Estudiantes 0; Cienciano 0 Dep Wanka 0; At Universidad 0 Alianza Lima 0.
Nov 10: Estudiantes 0 Universidad SMP 3; Sporting Cristal 1 Cienciano 2; Union Huaral 0 Universitario 1; Melgar 2 Alianza Atletico 4; Dep Wanka 3 Sport Boys 1; Alianza Lima 2 Universidad CV 1; Coronel Bolognesi 4 At Universidad 0.
Nov 13: At Universidad 2 Universidad SMP 1.
Nov 15: Cienciano 2 Coronel Bolognesi 1.
Nov 20: Universitario 2 Melgar 1; Universidad CV 0 Union Huaral 1.
Nov 21: Alianza Atletico 4 Sporting Cristal 3; Sport Boys 2 Universidad SMP 0; Coronel Bolognesi 1 Alianza Lima 2; Cienciano 2 Estudiantes 0; At Universidad 3 Dep Wanka 0.
Nov 24: Estudiantes 0 Sport Boys 2; Dep Wanka 2 Universidad CV 4; Sporting Cristal 1 At Universidad 2; Universidad SMP 2 Universitario 0; Melgar 3 Coronel Bolognesi 3; Alianza Lima 3 Alianza Atletico 0; Union Huaral 1 Cienciano 1.
Nov 27: Sport Boys 3 Melgar 2.
Nov 28: Alianza Atletico 2 Union Huaral 1; Cienciano 2 Universitario 0; Universidad CV 1 Universidad SMP 2; At Universidad 3 Estudiantes 3; Coronel Bolognesi 7 Dep Wanka 1; Alianza Lima 2 Sporting Cristal 1.

PERU – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cienciano	18	9	6	3	27	14	33
Sporting Cristal	18	10	2	6	32	25	32
Universitario	18	8	7	3	22	19	31
Alianza Lima	18	8	6	4	22	11	30
Alianza Atletico	18	9	3	6	28	24	30
Univ SMP	18	8	4	6	23	19	28
Union Huaral	18	7	6	5	24	21	27
Sport Boys	18	7	4	7	25	27	25
At Universidad	18	6	6	6	26	27	24
Melgar	18	6	4	8	35	34	22
C Bolognesi	18	5	4	9	33	26	19
Univ CV	18	5	4	9	17	26	19
Dep Wanka	18	4	3	11	17	41	15
Estudiantes	18	3	3	12	16	33	12

URUGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Nov 2: Penarol 2 Cerrito 1; Plaza 3 Fenix 3.
Nov 3: Nacional 6 Rentistas 1; Danubio 2 Wanderers 1; Liverpool 1 Defensor 2.
Nov 6: Danubio 2 Nacional 1; Cerrito 0 Defensor 2; Fenix 2 Liverpool 3; Rentistas 2 Plaza 1; Wanderers 1 Penarol 2.
Nov 9: Liverpool 4 Penarol 0; Fenix 1 Danubio 2; Plaza 0 Wanderers 1; Defensor 2 Nacional 1; Rentistas 1 Cerrito 1.
Nov 20: Nacional 2 Fenix 1; Cerrito 0 Danubio 2.
Nov 21: Penarol 3 Plaza 1; Defensor 0 Rentistas 0; Wanderers 0 Liverpool 2.
Nov 24: Nacional 2 Liverpool 1; Danubio 1 Plaza 0; Wanderers 0 Rentistas 0; Cerrito 2 Fenix 4; Penarol 1 Defensor 1.
Nov 27: Rentistas 2 Danubio 1; Plaza 1 Nacional 1.
Nov 28: Fenix 0 Penarol 3; Liverpool 2 Cerrito 3; Defensor 2 Wanderers 1.
Dec 1: Danubio 0 Defensor 0; Rentistas 2 Penarol 2; Plaza 1 Liverpool 2; Wanderers 1 Fenix 1; Cerrito 2 Nacional 2.

URUGUAY – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Danubio	7	5	1	1	10	5	16
Defensor	7	4	3	0	9	4	15
Penarol	7	4	2	1	13	10	14
Liverpool	7	4	0	3	15	10	12
Nacional	7	3	2	2	15	10	11
Rentistas	7	2	4	1	8	11	10
Fenix	7	1	2	4	12	16	5
Wanderers	7	1	2	4	5	9	5
Cerrito	7	1	2	4	9	15	5
Plaza	7	0	2	5	7	13	2

VENEZUELA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Nov 6: Caracas 3 ItalMaracaibo 0.
Nov 7: Monagas 2 Trujillanos 1; Dep Tachira 3 Ital-Chacao 0; Estudiantes 1 Carabobo 2; UA Maracaibo 2 Mineros Guayana 0.
Nov 10: Estudiantes 2 Dep Tachira 1; UA Maracaibo 3 Caracas 1; Mineros Guayana 0 Carabobo 0.
Nov 13: Trujillanos 1 ItalMaracaibo 1.
Nov 14: Ital-Chacao 3 Monagas 1.
Nov 21: Mineros Guayana 2 Caracas 0; Estudiantes 1 UA Maracaibo 2; Ital-Chacao 2 Carabobo 2; Trujillanos 1 Dep Tachira 0; ItalMaracaibo 1 Monagas 3.
Nov 27: Caracas 2 Monagas 1; Dep Tachira 3 ItalMaracaibo 0.
Nov 28: Carabobo 0 Trujillanos 4; UA Maracaibo 5 Ital-Chacao 1; Mineros Guayana 1 Estudiantes 0.
Dec 1: Estudiantes 0 Caracas 1; Ital-Chacao 0 Mineros Guayana 2; Trujillanos 0 UA Maracaibo 0; ItalMaracaibo 2 Carabobo 2; Monagas 2 Dep Tachira 0.

VENEZUELA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caracas	16	9	4	3	22	16	31
UA Maracaibo	16	7	7	2	23	11	28
Trujillanos	16	8	4	4	18	12	28
Mineros G'ana	16	7	5	4	23	15	26
Dep Tachira	16	7	2	7	19	18	23
Monagas	16	5	4	7	19	22	19
Carabobo	16	3	9	4	19	22	18
ItalMaracaibo	16	4	5	7	17	25	17
Estudiantes	16	4	4	8	21	27	16
Ital-Chacao	16	2	4	10	18	31	10

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

MEXICO

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP
Group stage

Nov 6: Toluca 1 Puebla 0; Cruz Azul 3 Dorados 3; Guadalajara 2 Morelia 1; Veracruz 3 Santos 2; Tigres 0 America 1.
Nov 7: Pachuca 3 Jaguares 0; Pumas UNAM 1 Necaxa 3; Atlante 7 Monterrey 1; Tecos UAG 2 Atlas 3.
Nov 12: Morelia 0 Pumas UNAM 0.
Nov 13: America 2 Cruz Azul 1; Jaguares 1 Toluca 3; Puebla 0 Veracruz 0; Monterrey 4 Pachuca 1; Dorados 0 Atlas 1; Guadalajara 2 Tecos UAG 2; Necaxa 1 Atlante 1.
Nov 14: Santos 2 Tigres 1.
Nov 20: Cruz Azul 1 Santos 0; Tecos UAG 1 Dorados 2.
Nov 21: Atlante 1 Morelia 6; Atlas 1 America 1; Pachuca 4 Necaxa 1; Tigres 4 Puebla 0; Toluca 4 Monterrey 0; Pumas UNAM 1 Guadalajara 5; Veracruz 0 Jaguares 2.

MEXICO – OPENING – GROUP 1 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atlante	17	7	3	7	27	33	24
Pumas UNAM	17	7	2	8	25	31	23
Morelia	17	6	4	7	29	30	22
America	17	5	5	7	17	23	20
Dorados	17	4	4	9	25	32	16
Tecos UAG	17	4	4	9	17	29	16

GROUP 2 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toluca	17	10	2	5	27	15	32
Atlas	17	9	4	4	34	24	31
Guadalajara	17	8	5	4	34	22	29
Tigres	17	6	5	6	37	27	23
Puebla	17	5	6	6	17	23	21
Cruz Azul	17	4	4	9	30	37	16

GROUP 3 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Veracruz	17	11	2	4	27	25	35
Pachuca	17	9	5	3	30	19	32
Monterrey	17	8	3	6	36	34	27
Necaxa	17	6	3	8	27	26	21
Santos	17	5	3	9	22	22	18
Jaguares	17	4	6	7	20	29	18

Top two from each group and the two third-placed sides with most points qualified for knockout stages

TOP GOALSCORERS*
15 Guillermo Franco (Monterrey)
12 Jose Cardozo (Toluca)
12 Robert de Pinho (Atlas)
**Group stage only*

Quarter-finals
1st legs
Nov 24: Atlante 4 Toluca 2; Pumas UNAM 3 Veracruz 0.
Nov 25: Monterrey 2 Pachuca 1; Guadalajara 0 Atlas 1.

2nd legs
Nov 27: Veracruz 1 Pumas UNAM 1 *Pumas 4-1 on agg*; Toluca 3 Atlante 4 *Atlante 8-5 on agg.*
Nov 28: Atlas 3 Guadalajara 3 *Atlas 4-3 on agg*; Pachuca 1 Monterrey 1 *Monterrey 3-2 on agg.*

UNITED STATES

Play-offs – semi-finals

Nov 5: Kansas City Wizards 2 Los Angeles Galaxy 0.
Nov 6: DC United 3 New England Revolution 3 (aet; DC United 4-3 on pens).

MLS Cup (championship Final)
Nov 14 - Home Depot Center, Carson
Kansas City Wizards 2 (Burciaga 6, Wolff pen 58)
DC United 3 (Eskandarian 19, 23, Zotinca og 26)
HT: 1-3. **Att:** 25,797. **Ref:** Kennedy
Sent off: Kovalenco (DC United) 57min

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Semi-finals, 2nd legs

Nov 14
Etoile Sahel (Tun) 3 (Traore 5, 76, Opara 44)
Jeanne d'Arc (Sen) 0
HT: 2-0
Etoile Sahel 4-2 on agg

Nov 14
Esperance (Tun) 1 (Zitouni 43)
Enyimba (Nig) 1 (Tyavkase 60)
HT: 1-0
Agg 2-2. Enyimba 6-5 on pens

AFRICAN CONFEDERATION CUP

Group A
Nov 13: Asante Kotoko (Gha) 3 Al Hilal (Sud) 0; Petro Atletico (Ang) 0 Enugu Rangers (Nig) 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Asante Kotoko	6	3	1	2	10	7	10
Enugu Rangers	6	3	1	2	12	6	10
Al Hilal	6	3	0	3	6	11	9
Petro Atletico	6	1	2	3	5	9	5

Asante Kotoko finished top on better head-to-head record

Group B
Nov 14: Hearts of Oak (Gha) 3 Cotonsport (Cam) 2; Sable Batie (Cam) 3 Santos (SAf) 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hearts of Oak	6	4	1	1	10	5	13
Cotonsport	6	3	2	1	9	3	11
Sable Batie	6	2	1	3	6	9	7
Santos	6	1	0	5	3	11	3

Group winners qualified for Final

ASIA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Final, 1st leg
Nov 24 - Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal stadium, Jeddah
Al Ittihad (Sau) 1 (Tukar 28)
Songnam Ilhwa Chunma (Sko) 3 (Laktionov 27, Kim Do-hoon 81, Jang Hak-young 90)
HT: 1-1

Final, 2nd leg
Dec 1 - Songnam Sports Complex, Songnam
Songnam Ilhwa Chunma 0
Al Ittihad 5 (Tukar 27, Idriss 45, Noor 55, 78, Abushgeer 90)
HT: 0-2
Al Ittihad 6-3 on agg

AFC CUP

Final, 1st leg
Nov 19 - Al-Abbassiyyin stadium, Damascus
Al Wahda (Syr) 2 (Radawi 49, Akil 90)
Al Jaish (Syr) 3 (Shaabou 3, Ismail 32, Al-Abtah pen 55)
HT: 0-2

Final, 2nd leg
Nov 26 - Al-Abbassiyyin stadium, Damascus
Al Jaish 0
Al Wahda 1 (Al-Shahma 72)
HT: 0-0
Agg 3-3. Al Jaish on away goals (since both games were played in same stadium, Al Wahda were designated as the home side for the 1st leg, Al Jaish for the 2nd leg)

JAPAN

SECOND STAGE

Nov 6: Urawa Reds 2 Shimizu S-Pulse 1; Kashiwa Reysol 0 Tokyo Verdy 1969 2; FC Tokyo 1 Oita Trinita 1; Yokohama F Marinos 2 JEF United Ichihara 1; Nagoya Grampus Eight 2 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1; Gamba Osaka 6 Albirex Niigata 3.
Nov 7: Jubilo Iwata 2 Cerezo Osaka 2; Vissel Kobe 2 Kashima Antlers 1.
Nov 10: Oita Trinita 0 Nagoya Grampus Eight 4; Albirex Niigata 1 Kashiwa Reysol 3.
Nov 20: Urawa Reds 1 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2; JEF United Ichihara 5 Vissel Kobe 1; Tokyo Verdy 1969 1 Cerezo Osaka 1; Albirex Niigata 4 FC Tokyo 2; Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Kashiwa Reysol 1; Gamba Osaka 0 Yokohama F Marinos 2; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 3 Jubilo Iwata 2; Oita Trinita 0 Kashima Antlers 3.
Nov 23: Kashima Antlers 1 Tokyo Verdy 1969 0; Kashiwa Reysol 0 Urawa Reds 4; FC Tokyo 3 JEF United Ichihara 3; Yokohama F Marinos 1 Albirex Niigata 2; Jubilo Iwata 1 Gamba Osaka 2; Cerezo Osaka 2 Shimizu S-Pulse 1; Vissel Kobe 2 Nagoya Grampus Eight 1; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0 Oita Trinita 0.
Nov 28: Urawa Reds 1 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0; JEF United Ichihara 2 Jubilo Iwata 1; Tokyo Verdy 1969 0 Yokohama F Marinos 0; Albirex Niigata 1 Cerezo Osaka 2; Shimizu S-Pulse 1 Vissel Kobe 3; Nagoya Grampus Eight 0 Kashima Antlers 2; Gamba Osaka 1 FC Tokyo 2; Oita Trinita 2 Kashiwa Reysol 2.

JAPAN – SECOND STAGE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Urawa Reds	15	12	1	2	40	15	37
JEF United	15	8	4	3	27	22	28
Gamba Osaka	15	8	3	4	38	25	27
Kashima Antlers	15	7	3	5	23	17	24
Grampus Eight	15	7	3	5	25	21	24
Yokohama FM	15	6	5	4	21	17	23
Albirex Niigata	15	7	2	6	31	33	23
Vissel Kobe	15	6	3	6	29	30	21
Tokyo Verdy	15	6	2	7	22	23	20
FC Tokyo	15	4	6	5	21	22	18
Sanfrecce H	15	3	7	5	21	23	16
Cerezo Osaka	15	4	4	7	25	34	16
Jubilo Iwata	15	3	5	7	23	28	14
Shimizu S-Pulse	15	4	1	10	17	26	13
Kashiwa Reysol	15	2	7	6	15	27	13
Oita Trinita	15	3	4	8	14	29	13

SOUTH KOREA

SECOND STAGE

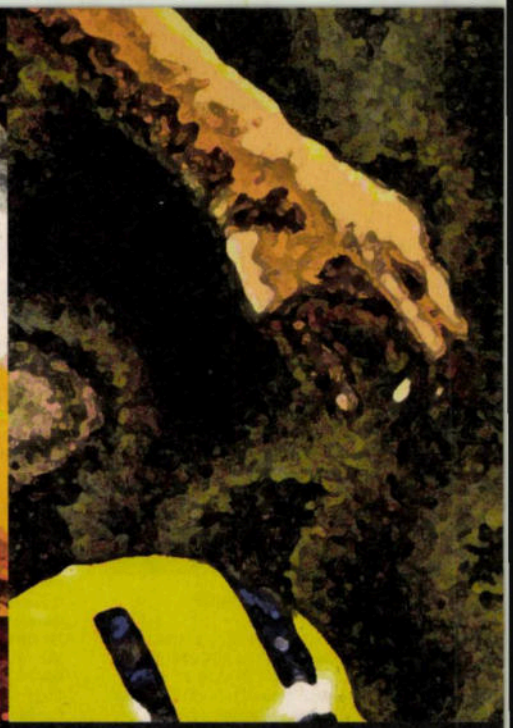
Nov 6: Ulsan 0 Gwangju 0.
Nov 7: Seoul 1 Bucheon 1; Busan 1 Chunnam 2; Daegu 2 Daejeon 0; Songnam 0-Incheon 0; Pohang 0 Suwon 1.
Nov 10: Incheon 1 Pohang 0; Daejeon 1 Songnam 1; Gwangju 0 Daegu 0; Chunnam 1 Ulsan 0; Bucheon 0 Busan 3; Suwon 2 Chonbuk 1.
Nov 13: Ulsan 2 Bucheon 0; Daegu 1 Chunnam 1; Songnam 1 Gwangju 2; Pohang 1 Daejeon 2; Chonbuk 0 Incheon 1.
Nov 14: Busan 2 Seoul 0.
Nov 20: Chunnam 1 Songnam 0; Incheon 0 Suwon 0; Seoul 0 Ulsan 0; Daejeon 1 Chonbuk 0; Gwangju 2 Pohang 3; Bucheon 4 Daegu 0.

SOUTH KOREA – SECOND STAGE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Suwon	12	7	2	3	12	8	23
Chunnam	12	6	4	2	12	7	22
Ulsan	12	6	3	3	11	6	21
Incheon	12	4	5	3	11	9	17
Seoul	12	4	5	3	8	7	17
Busan	12	4	4	4	14	11	16
Daegu	12	4	4	4	11	12	16
Gwangju	12	3	5	4	7	8	14
Songnam	12	3	5	4	10	12	14
Bucheon	12	3	5	4	12	15	14
Daejeon	12	4	2	6	9	15	14
Chonbuk	12	3	3	6	7	9	12
Pohang	12	2	3	7	7	12	9

NEXT MONTH

FEBRUARY ISSUE ON SALE JANUARY 21



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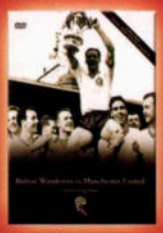
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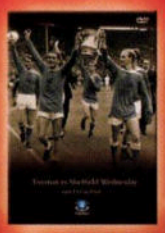
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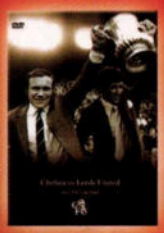
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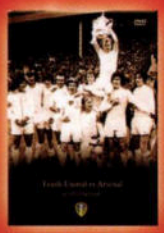
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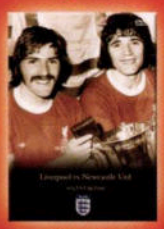
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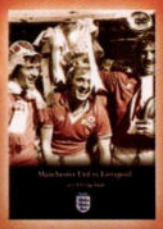
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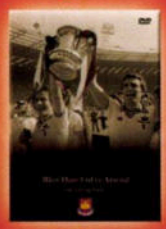
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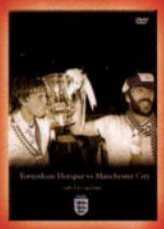
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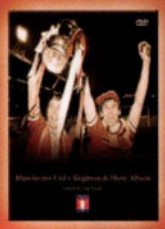
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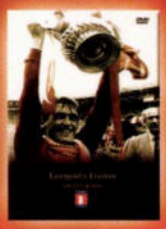
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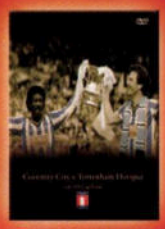
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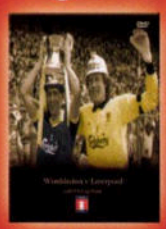
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1991

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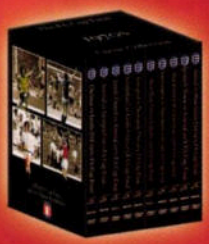
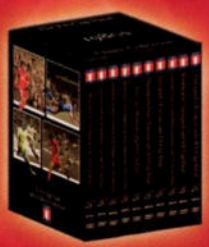
2004


1970s Collection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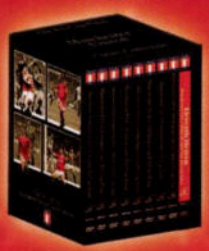
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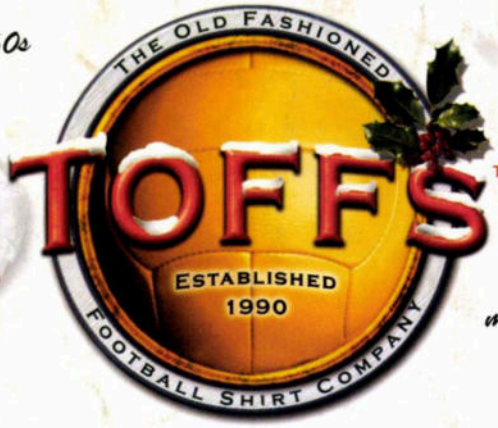

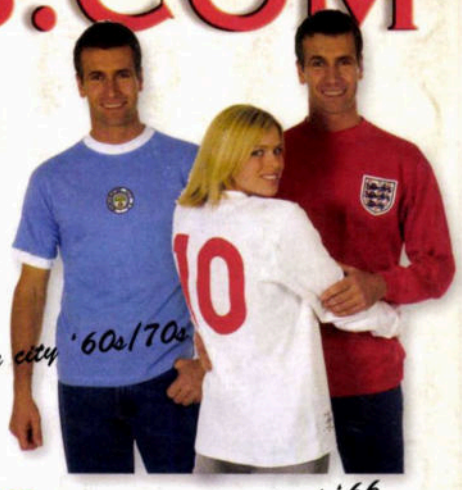

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